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CLANCY ROSS, world's best developed man, says: "You can be a mountain of mighty muscles — with power oozing out of every pore in your power-packed, jet-charged body! Do what I did — what thousands of other Herculean Weider-trained champions did — follow Weider as your leader — mail that coupon for your FREE TRIAL COURSE TODAY!"



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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

Volume 1, Number 11

MARCH, 1958

Published Quarterly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class Mailing privileges authorized at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 15¢. Subscription 12 issues \$1.80. Copyright 1957 by Charlton Comics Group. Pat Masulli, Executive Editor.

(Printed in U.S.A.)

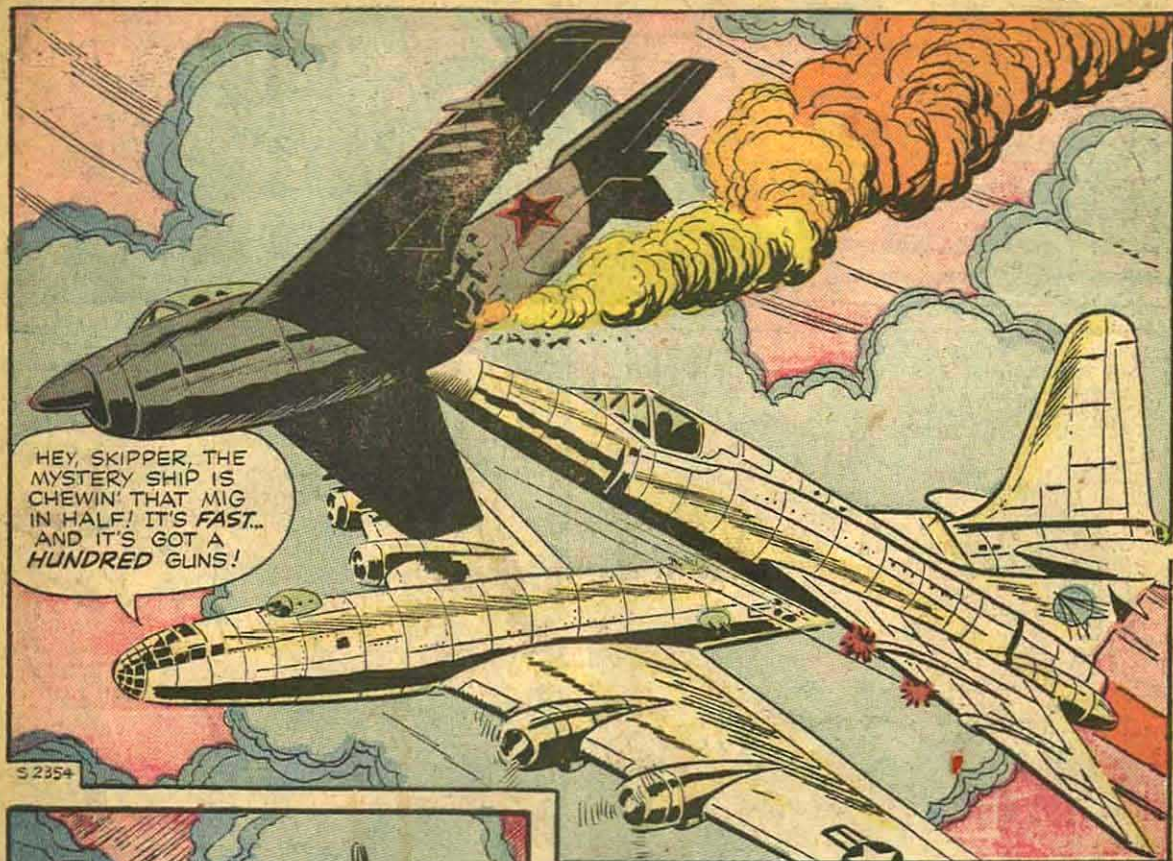
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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

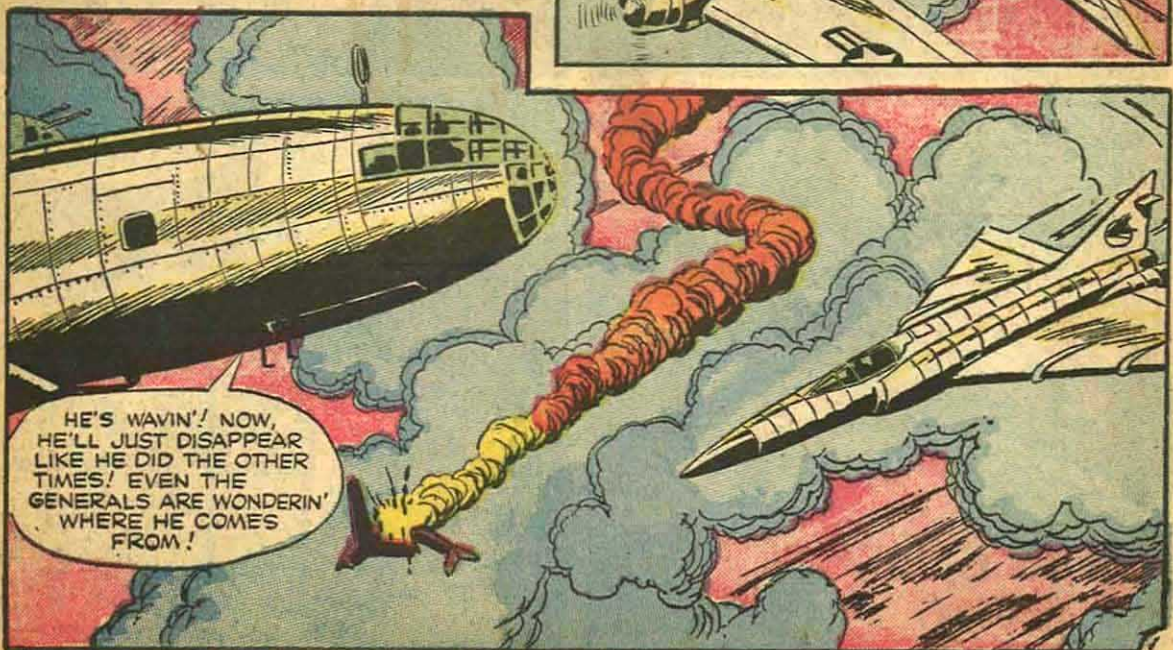
IT WAS FASTER THAN THE MIG 19'S! IT SHOT DOWN SO EASILY...AND THE STREAM OF HIGH VELOCITY LEAD IT THREW, CUT THE MIGS IN HALF! BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE A PLANE LIKE IT... WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHO FLEW...

The MYSTERY SHIP?



HEY, SKIPPER, THE MYSTERY SHIP IS CHEWIN' THAT MIG IN HALF! IT'S FAST... AND IT'S GOT A HUNDRED GUNS!

S 2354



HE'S WAVIN'! NOW, HE'LL JUST DISAPPEAR LIKE HE DID THE OTHER TIMES! EVEN THE GENERALS ARE WONDERIN' WHERE HE COMES FROM!

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

GENERAL BINGO DANTY DIDN'T WONDER! HE SAW THE PLANE EVERY DAY! IT WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROTOTYPE, NOT YET ACCEPTED FOR SERVICE...

SHE'S A SWEETHEART! THE ONLY QUESTION IS, CAN SHE BE FLOWN IN SQUADRON STRENGTH, UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS!



HOW'D IT GO, JOE? GET ANY?

CLEAN THE GUNS BEFORE SOMEONE SNIFFS AROUND! I'VE GOT TO REPORT TO BINGO ON AN EXPERIMENTAL FLIGHT!



IT'LL BE MONTHS BEFORE ALL THE TESTS ARE COMPLETED! I WISH I COULD TURN HER LOOSE WITH COMBAT PILOTS ABOARD RIGHT NOW!

THERE'S LOTS OF TIME, BINGO!



WE'RE OUTCLASSED, JOE, AND YOU KNOW IT! OUR PILOTS ARE BETTER BUT THEY HAVE THE NEW MIGS! THEY OUTFLY OUR OLDER MODELS!



IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS MYSTERY PLANE I'VE HEARD OF, THE COMMIES WOULD HAVE A PICNIC!



THAT MYSTERY PLANE'S FLYING OVER THE LINES NOW, GENERAL! SHOT DOWN FOUR MIGS, SO FAR, SAVED TWO OF OUR BOYS!

THAT CLEARS UP ONE THING, ANYHOW!



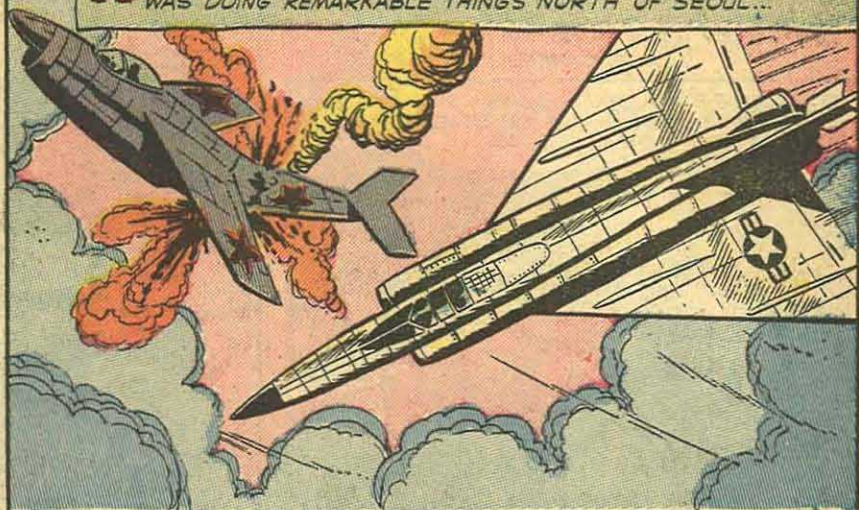
FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

WHAT'S THAT, BINGO? DON'T TELL ME... YOU FLEW THE MYSTERY PLANE!

WHY NOT? YOU WERE AN ACE IN EUROPE IN THE LAST SCRAMBLE! AND YOUR PLANE ANSWERS THE DESCRIPTION! BUT YOU CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONE TIME!



AT THAT MOMENT, A WEIRD PLANE WITH AMERICAN MARKINGS WAS DOING REMARKABLE THINGS NORTH OF SEOUL...



SHE TURNS INSIDE THE MIGS TOO! WHAT A SWEETHEART!



WAIT'LL I GIVE JOE FIELDER THE SECRET REPORT TONIGHT! HE THINKS *HE'S* HOT STUFF...THIS PUTS ME AHEAD OF HIM!



JOE FIELDER GOT A LOT OF CALLS EVERY NIGHT! AND HIS REPORTS, NOT MILITARY, WERE COMPLETED DAILY...

NICE GOIN', SLIM! THREE OF US ARE TIED FOR TOP HONORS... BUT THE PLANE'S PERFORMANCE IS MOST IMPORTANT! AND THAT IS TERRIFIC!



THE CAREER PILOTS MIGHT GET TO FLY THEM SOON TOO! GENERAL DANTY HAS A DEMONSTRATION ARRANGED FOR TOMORROW AT TEN! HERE'S HOPIN'!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE HARD-BITTEN SKEPTICAL MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE INSPECTION BOARD WERE AT THE FIELD EARLY! THEY WENT OVER THE DELTA-WINGED PLANE CAREFULLY...

IT CARRIES A LOT OF GUNS! I THINK SHE'LL SPIN OUT OR STALL WHEN THE PILOT TRIGGERS THEM ALL!



I DUNNO, MR. FIELDER! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT BE SLUGGISH IN COMBAT!



BUT THE AIR RAID SIREN CUT OFF FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS! AND OVER THE FIELD, A SMOKING B26 FOUGHT FOR HER LIFE!



DON'T TRY IT, JOE! THAT PLANE'S NOT TESTED FOR COMBAT!

NO? TELL YOUR 'EXPERTS' TO WATCH THIS DEMONSTRATION!



WOW! SHE TOOK OFF LIKE A SCARED CAT! AND SHE CAN CLIMB!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



THAT'S ONE MIG THAT WON'T FOLLOW ANY MORE CRIPPLED PLANES!



THAT'S TWO! AND NUMBER THREE HAS TO GET **SPECIAL TREATMENT!**



THE MIG TRIED TO GET AWAY... BUT JOE FIELDER HERDED HIM BACK AROUND THE FIELD! THE MIG DOVE, GUNS BLAZING... AND JOE CUT LOOSE!

WOW! HE RACKS THAT JET AROUND LIKE A TRAINING PLANE!

THOSE CANNONS HE CARRIES COULD SINK A BATTLESHIP! LET'S ORDER ALL THE FACTORY CAN BUILD!

FIVE MINUTES LATER, AND BACK ON THE GROUND...



WE'RE SATISFIED, JOE! OF COURSE, NOT ALL PILOTS ARE IN YOUR CLASS! OTHERS MAY NOT DO AS WELL!

REMEMBER THAT **MYSTERY PLANE** YOU TOLD ME ABOUT? THERE'S A DOZEN LIKE THIS ONE IN KOREA!

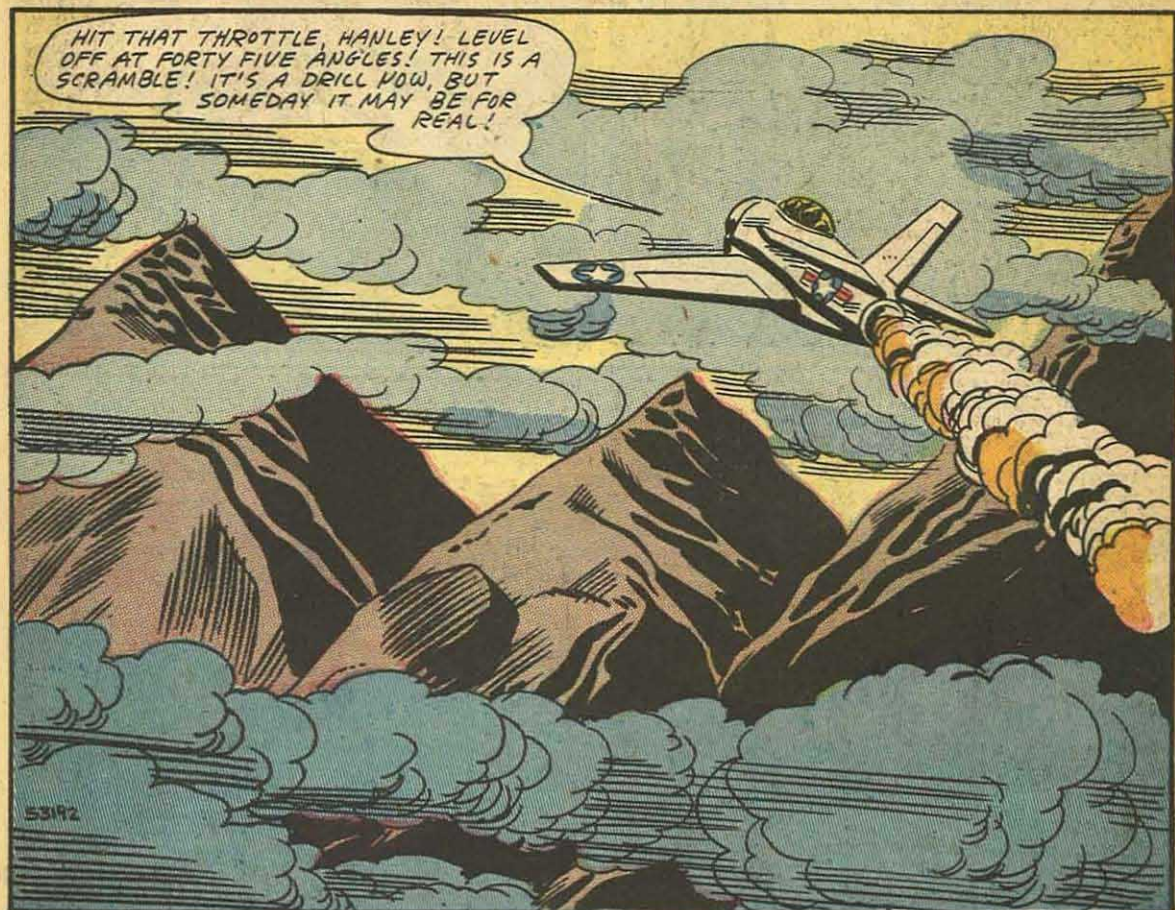


...AND THEY'VE BEEN FLYING COMBAT JUST AS I HAVE! EVERY ONE HAS AT LEAST SEVEN TO HIS CREDIT! AND THEY'RE ALL AIR FORCE REJECTS LIKE ME! I RECRUITED THEM MYSELF!

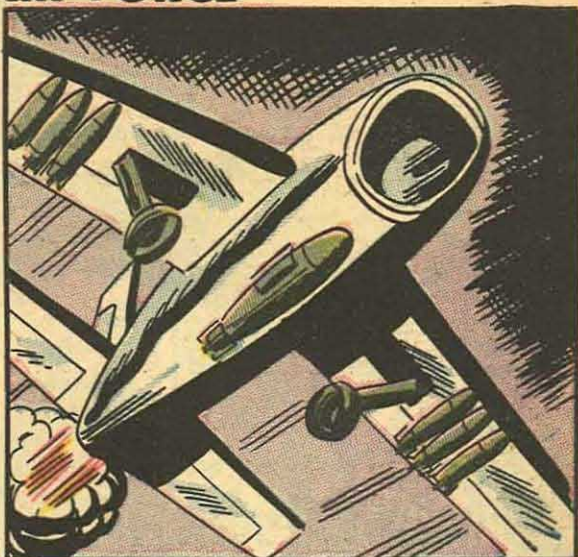
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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

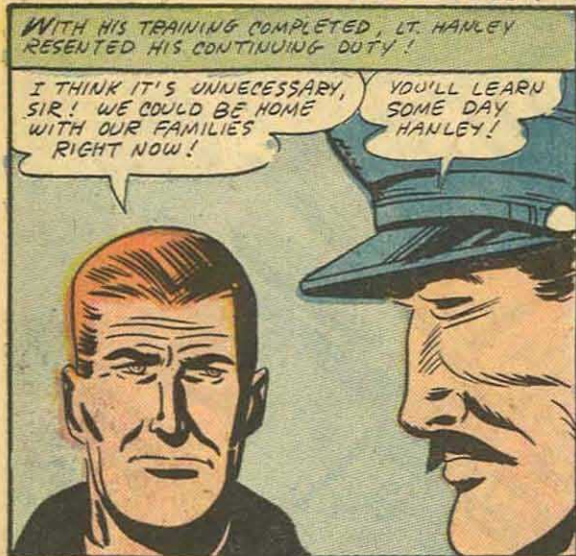
SOMEONE'S WATCHING THE STORE



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

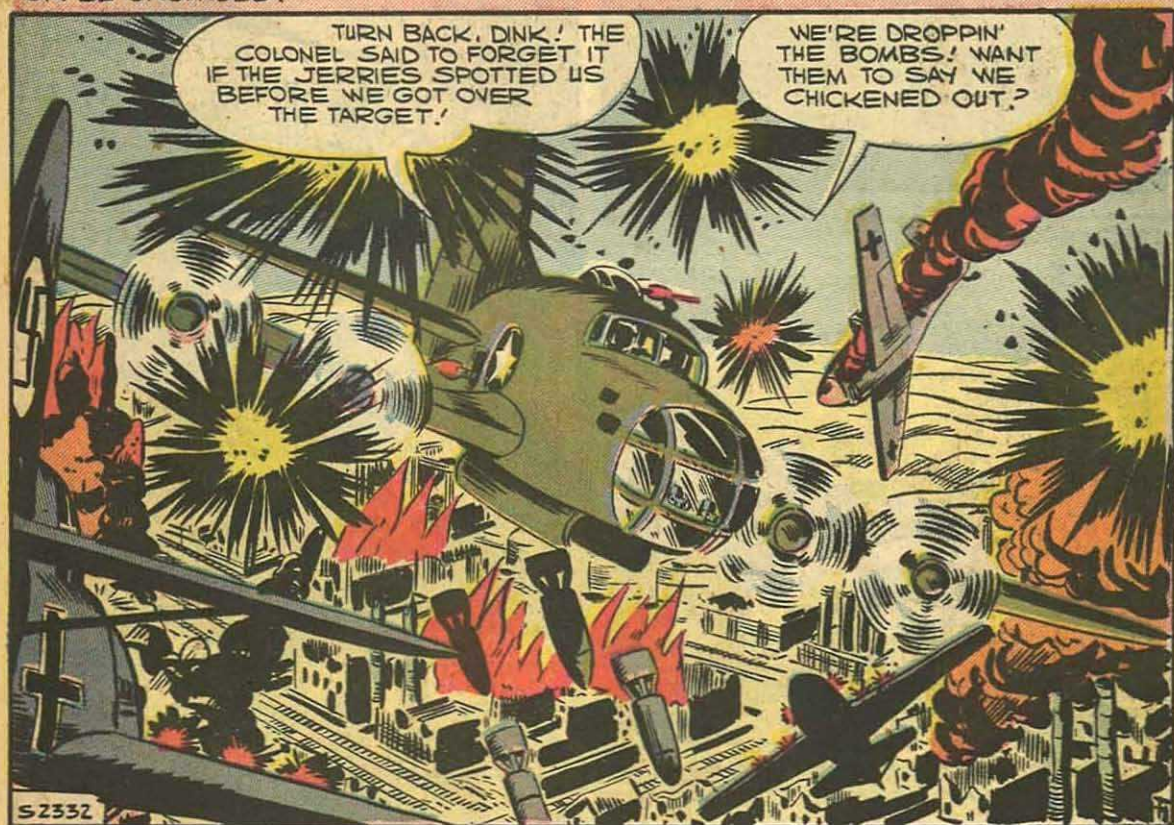


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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

FLIGHT FATIGUE

CAPTAIN DINK PEEBLES HAD LAUGHED A LOT WHEN HE ARRIVED WITH THE FIRST BATCH OF B-17'S... BUT AFTER FIFTY MISSIONS HE LAUGHED LESS, AFTER A HUNDRED, HE WORE WORRY LINES--AND AFTER TWO HUNDRED MISSIONS, HE WAS DEVELOPING A TWITCH AND HIS HANDS SHOOK! HE HAD FLIGHT FATIGUE--BUT HE REFUSED TO ADMIT IT OR BE GROUNDED!



CAPTAIN PEEBLES KNEW IT WAS POOR JUDGMENT... BUT HE REFUSED TO ADMIT THAT EITHER...

WE'LL PLAY TAG WITH MESSERSCHMIDTS ALL THE WAY HOME, DINK! YOU GOOFED!

OKAY, I GOOFED! BUT TELL ME LATER, NOT NOW!



ALL YOU BIRDS WHISTLE THE SAME TUNE! THE SKIPPER GOOFED AGAIN, THE SKIPPER'S FLAK-HAPPY! WELL, I'M NOT!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

WE'RE GOING FOR AN ARTILLERY SHELL DEPOT! IF WE GET IT, THERE'S A FEW JOES ON THE GROUND WHO'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS SOME DAY!

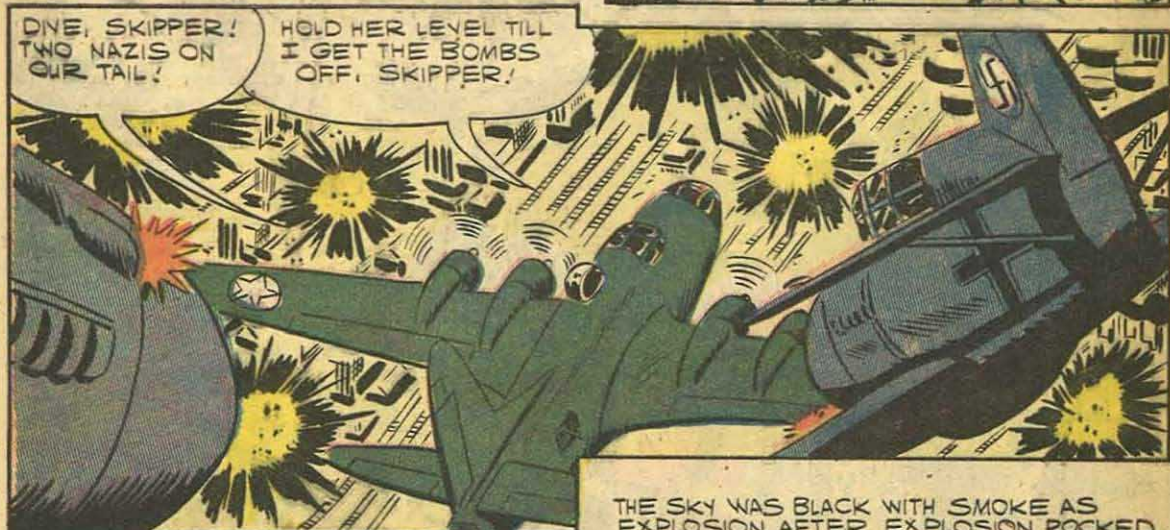


THE NAZIS THREW UP A CURTAIN OF FIRE... BUT CAPTAIN PEEBLES' BOMBER MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED AND WAS OVER THE TARGET...



DNE, SKIPPER! TWO NAZIS ON OUR TAIL!

HOLD HER LEVEL TILL I GET THE BOMBS OFF, SKIPPER!



THE SKY WAS BLACK WITH SMOKE AS EXPLOSION AFTER EXPLOSION ROCKED GERMANY BEHIND THEM...

OKAY, YOU TYPES! TAKE A LOOK IN BACK OF US! THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T TURN BACK!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

HOME AGAIN, CAPTAIN PEEBLES REPORTED TO INTELLIGENCE, THEN TO THE FLIGHT SURGEON...

CONGRATULATIONS, DINK, YOU GOT ANOTHER BULL'S EYE! BUT, I HEAR YOU COULD'VE TURNED BACK IF YOU'D WANTED TO! WHY DIDN'T YOU?



THERE'S A WAR ON, THAT'S WHY! AND WE HAVE OUR JOB TO DO! AM I FLAK-HAPPY FOR WANTING TO DO IT?



YOU'VE GOT TWO HUNDRED AND TWELVE MISSIONS, CAPTAIN! IT'S MY JOB TO WATCH YOU CAREFULLY!

DINK'S THE BEST MAN I HAVE! I KNOW HE SHOULD BE RESTED BUT I'D RATHER YOU WOULDN'T FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER WEEK!



WE NEED DINK TO FLY PATHFINDER FOR US-- PINPOINT OUR TARGET WITH SMOKE FLARES! THEN THE REST OF US WILL PLASTER IT! ONLY DINK CAN DO IT!



IT WAS A BIG OPERATION! CAPTAIN PEEBLES WAS BRIEFED THOROUGHLY...

THIS CAMOUFLAGED, UNDERGROUND FACTORY MUST BE DESTROYED, DINK! YOU'VE GOT TO LOCATE IT AND MARK IT!



I'LL FIND IT, COLONEL! I JUST HOPE MY CREW DOESN'T THINK I'M CRAZY FOR TRYING TO DO MY JOB! MAYBE AFTER THAT I'LL TAKE A LEAVE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

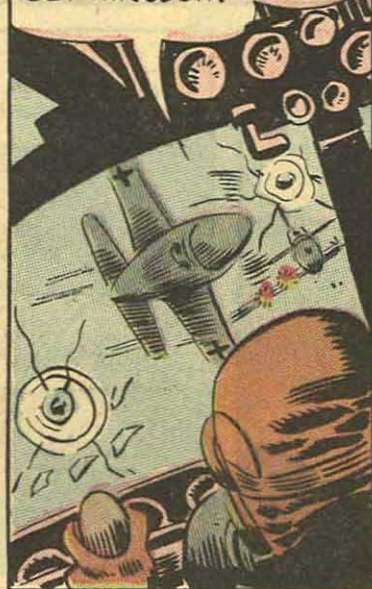
THOUSANDS OF BOMBERS AWAITED THE HOUR... THE HOUR WHEN CAPTAIN PEEBLES' PLANE TOOK OFF IN ADVANCE OF THE OTHERS...



WE'RE NOT TURNING BACK OR PLAYING CAUTIOUS THIS TRIP, KIDDIES! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT FACTORY!



THEY'RE OUT TO GET US, DINK! I HOPE WE GET THROUGH!



THEN THE PLANE WAS DOWN LOW, AND CAPTAIN PEEBLES HAD HIS TARGET SPOTTED...

GET READY TO DROP SMOKE BOMBS! TARGET DEAD AHEAD!



THEY'RE DROPPIN' THEM RIGHT ON THE TARGET! GOOD WORK, BOYS!



WE RAN OUT OF LUCK, BOYS! GET READY TO BAIL OUT! I'LL KEEP HER STRAIGHT AND LEVEL!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE CREW MEMBERS BAILED OUT, THEN DINK PEEBLES SET THE CONTROLS AND HIT THE SILK...

WELL, I'LL LET THEM GIVE ME A LEAVE -- IF THE GERMAN ARMY LETS ME GO BACK!



HEY, FLYBOY! HUNT A HOLE!



THIS IS THE PLACE TO FIGHT A WAR! NICE, SOLID EARTH!

GIMME YOUR WINGS, I'LL SWAP JOBS! YOU'D BETTER START HIKIN' BACK BEFORE THEY PUT YOU AWOL!



CAPTAIN PEEBLES MADE IT BACK TO ENGLAND THREE DAYS LATER! AND HE FOUND THE D.F.C. WAITING FOR HIM, PLUS LEAVE PAPERS...



SAY HELLO TO THE AMERICAN GIRLS FOR ME, DINK! AND THANKS FOR MAKING THAT LAST STRIKE A SUCCESS!

IT WAS MY JOB, SIR! AND THE GUYS ON THE GROUND DESERVE ALL WE CAN DO TO HELP!



END

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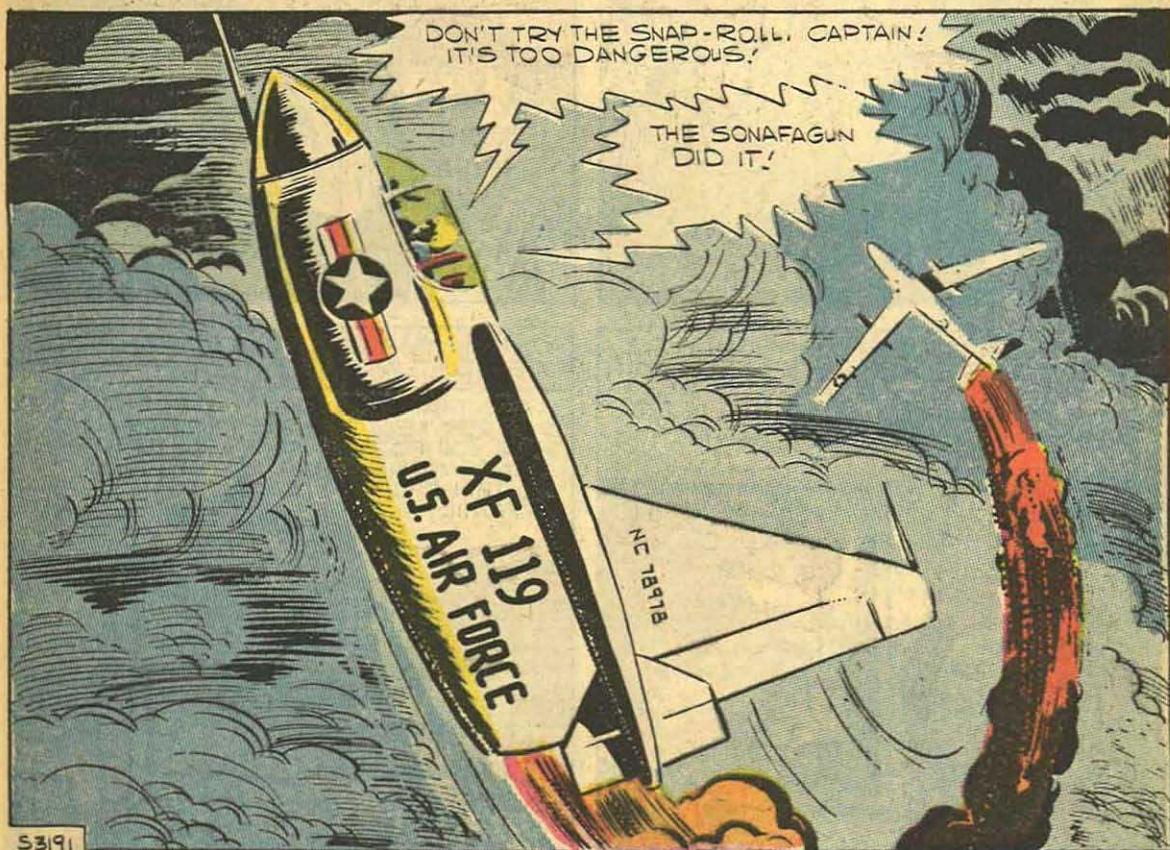
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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

IT WAS THE LAST TEST CAPTAIN BEN TANBER WOULD EVER FLY -- HE'D ALREADY NOTIFIED HIS SUPERIOR, BRIG. GEN. NOGEL THAT HE WAS THROUGH. BUT IT WAS HIS LAST ANYHOW IF HE SNAP-ROLLED THE XF 119 -- HE WAS SURE THE TINY ROCKET PLANE WOULD EXPLODE IF HE TRIED. AND HE DID TRY!

THE LAST TEST



CAPTAIN TANBER WAS IN A DANGEROUS BUSINESS AND HE KNEW IT. HIS LAST FLIGHT HAD BEEN A ROUTINE TEST OF A JET BEFORE THE AIR FORCE ACCEPTED IT...



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THAT DOES IT! I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS TEST PILOT BUSINESS! IT'S VOLUNTARY DUTY--I'M PUTTING IN FOR A DESK JOB!



BRUISED FROM HIS PARACHUTE LANDING, CAPTAIN TANBER SPENT THE NEXT FIVE HOURS WITH THE ENGINEERS...

I FELT THE VIBRATION, THEN HIT THE BUTTON WHEN THE WING BROKE OFF! ALL INSTRUMENT READINGS WERE NORMAL WHEN IT HAPPENED!

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN! WE'RE ALL THROUGH WITH YOU!



WE'VE BEEN HERE SINCE IT HAPPENED, BEN! OH, BEN, MUST...

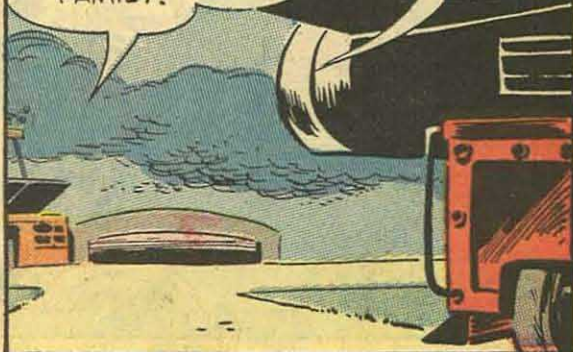
DON'T SAY IT, HONEY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO! I'M QUITTING IN THE MORNING!



CAPTAIN TANBER SAW GENERAL VOGEL THE NEXT MORNING...

...SO THAT'S IT, SIR! I'VE TESTED PLANES FOR YOU FOR FOUR YEARS! I'VE GOT TO THINK OF MY FAMILY!

VERY WELL, BEN! I'LL GET YOU MARINO TO TEST THE XF119!



THE XF119! MARINO'S GOOD-- BUT HE HASN'T ENOUGH EXPERIENCE FOR THAT PLANE!



I KNOW THE PLANE, SIR! I'LL DO THE PRELIMINARY TESTS!

THANKS, BEN! THE ENGINEERS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

BEN KNEW THE XF119-- HE'D WATCHED IT MATERIALIZE ON DRAWING BOARDS, HE'D MADE TRIPS TO SEE IT BEING CONSTRUCTED, AND HE HAD IDEAS...

ALL THE BUGS ARE OUT OF IT, BEN!

ALL BUT ONE, SPECS! AND THAT ONE'S GOING TO TEAR IT RIGHT APART!



THE WING'LL SHEAR OFF RIGHT THERE, SPECS!

YOU'RE CRAZY, BEN! WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF SAFETY MARGIN THERE!



IT'LL BE FINE -- UNTIL THE SHIP IS PUT INTO A FAST SNAP-ROLL! THEN, THAT WING'LL PEEL LIKE A BANANA!



CAPTAIN TANBER DIDN'T ARGUE AFTER THAT SESSION! HE WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS, FAMILIARIZING HIMSELF IN PRE-TEST PROCEDURE! LT. MARINO CHECKED THE SHIP WITH HIM...

GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN! I DON'T THINK ANYTHING WILL GO WRONG!

YOU'LL SEE, LIEUTENANT!



TAKE-OFF WAS AT 0630 -- THE ROCKET PLANE WAS TO BE LAUNCHED AT 30,000 FEET AT 0655! AND IT WENT OFF ON SCHEDULE...

THERE HE GOES!

I'M AIRBORNE! SPEED SIX FIFTY, SEVEN HUNDRED, ACCELERATING!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE NEEDLE-NOSED FIGHTER SMASHED THROUGH THE SOUND BARRIER AND BUILT UP SPEED FAST. CAPTAIN TANBER WAS FLYING AT ELEVEN HUNDRED M.P.H. WHEN HE MADE HIS DECISION...

IS SPECS THERE? COME IN, SPECS!

GO AHEAD, BEN!



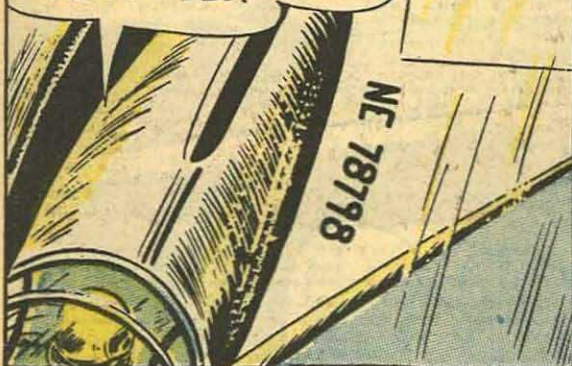
I'M GOING TO TRY THE SNAP ROLL! DON'T BE SURPRISED IF I COME APART!

GO AHEAD, BEN! THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE TEST CALL FOR THAT MANEUVER!



TRAVELING ALMOST TWICE AS FAST AS SOUND, CAPTAIN TANBER FLEW THE XF119 THROUGH IT. HE FELT THE PRELIMINARY WING SHUDDER AND WAITED...

I THOUGHT... THEY'RE STAYING ON! THE WINGS DIDN'T PEEL!



I WAS WRONG! THIS SHIP HANDLES BEAUTIFULLY! I'M GLAD I MADE THAT MISTAKE FOR MORE REASONS THAN ONE!



LATER, ON THE GROUND...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HAVE ANY TROUBLE! YOU'RE GETTING OLD AND FUSSY!



YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THAT WING, BEN! I CALLED THE FACTORY AND HAD THEM RUN A TEST ON OUR WIND TUNNEL MODEL! THE WINGS CAME OFF -- SO I BEEFED UP THE WING ROOT STRUT BEFORE YOU TOOK OFF!

NOW YOU TELL ME! THANKS, SPECS!



END

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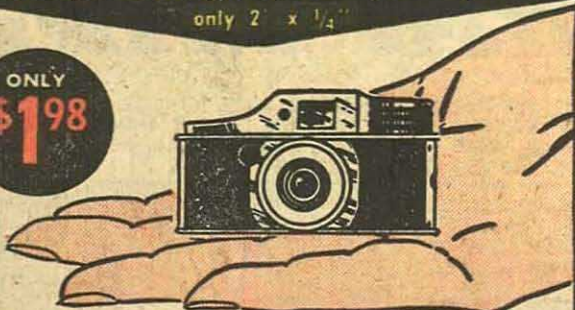


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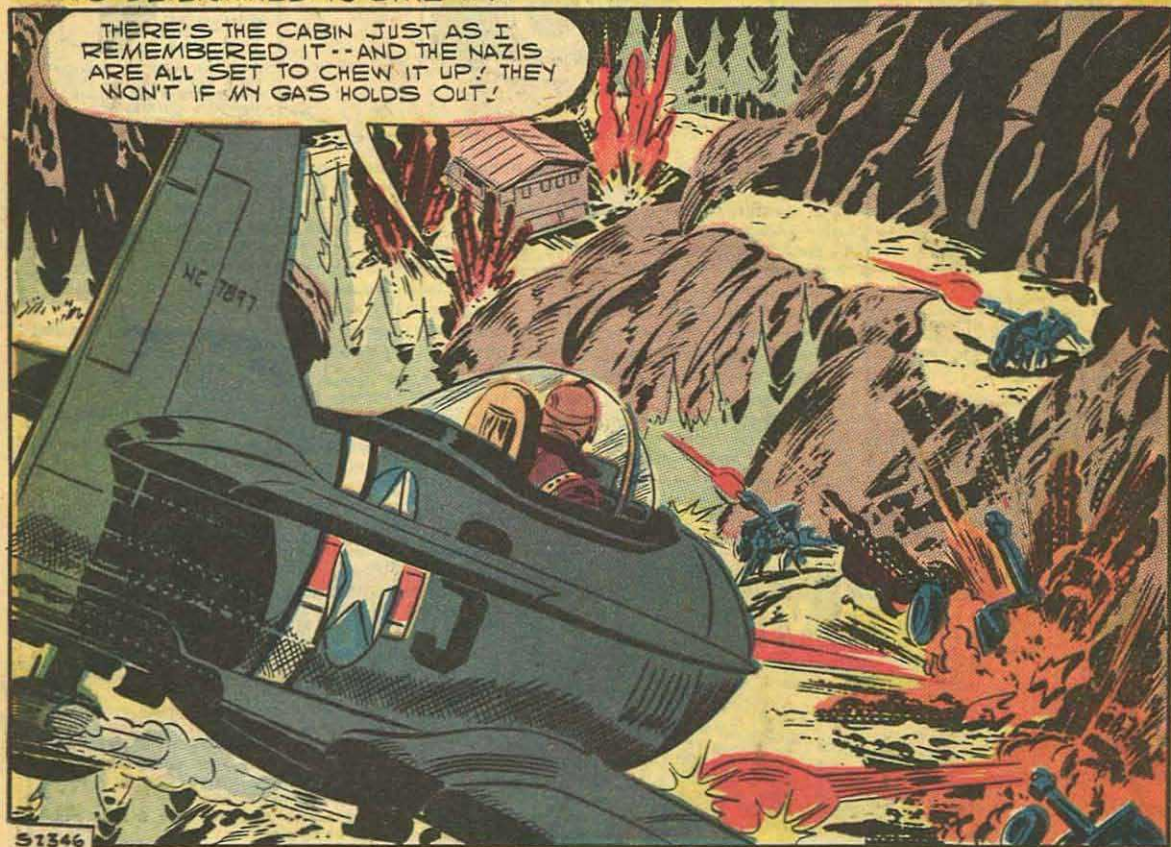
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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

ONE WAY MISSION

CAPTAIN TOBY WRADEK'S P-51 HAD ENOUGH GAS TO GET TO THE TARGET... BUT THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF GETTING BACK! HE DIDN'T HAVE TO VOLUNTEER... BUT THE GERMAN WAR MACHINE WAS GRINDING DOWN ON A VILLAGE HE ONCE KNEW AND WAS DETERMINED TO SAVE IT...



WRADEK WAS FLYING GROUND-SUPPORT MISSIONS WHEN THE MAN FROM INTELLIGENCE ARRIVED AT SQUADRON HEAD-QUARTERS! TOBY HAD JUST FINISHED A TOUGH FLIGHT...

CHALK UP TWO MORE TIGER TANKS, SKIPPER! I ZOOMED DOWN AND... WHO IS THAT MAN?

SOME BALKAN CHARACTER! NEVER MIND HIM! HOW'D YOU NAIL THE TANKS?



LATER, SKIP! ARE YOU FROM THE VILLAGE OF RUKNA, MISTER?

RUKNA? YES, I HAF BEEN THERE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

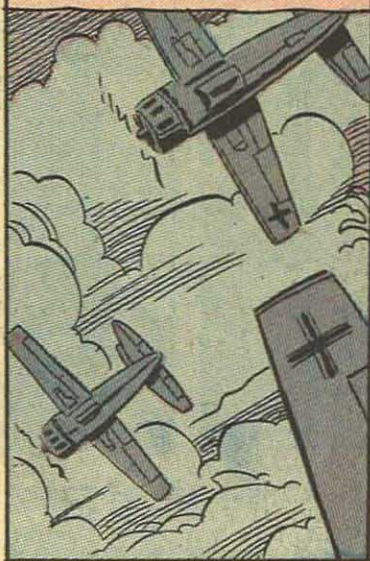


FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

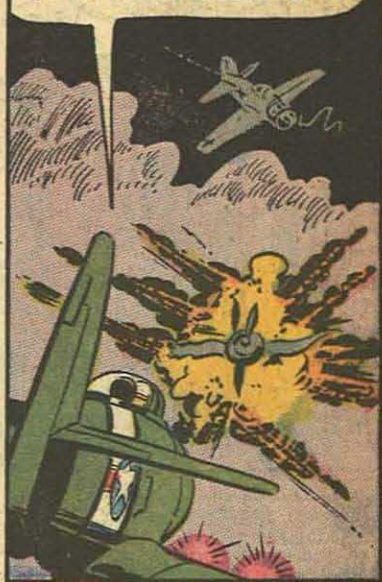
IF I STAY REAL LOW THE NAZIS MAY NOT SPOT THE SHIP! AND I'VE GOT TO CONSERVE FUEL OR I WON'T GET AS FAR AS RUKNA TO HELP CHANO!



THREE FW'S SAW HIM IN EASTERN FRANCE! THE FIRST ONE PEELED OFF AND SCREAMED DOWN...



I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE OTHER ONE CLOSES IN



GOT HIM -- BUT THE OTHER ONE IS CHEWIN' ME UP!



THE THIRD FW WHEELED AWAY... AND CAPTAIN WRADEK RESUMED HIS FLIGHT EAST...

THAT COST A FEW GALLONS OF GAS-- AND MADE ME TEN MINUTES LATE! TEN MINUTES MIGHT MEAN A LOT TO CHANO AND HIS FRIENDS!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THEN HE WAS OVER THE COUNTRY HE'D VISITED AS A BOY...

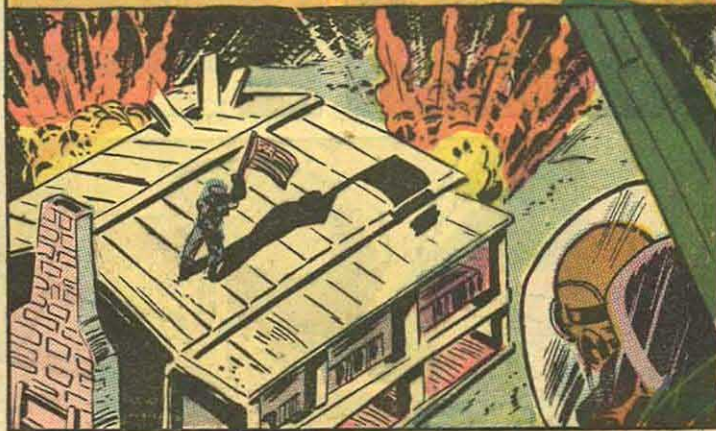
THERE'S THE CATHEDRAL! THE VILLAGE IS JUST UP THE VALLEY FROM HERE!



THIS IS THE PLACE! CHANO'S HOME TOWN--THE CABIN IS NEARBY!



CAPTAIN WRADEK HAD NO TROUBLE SPOTTING THE CABIN! GERMAN SHELLFIRE MARKED THE BUILDING..



HERE WE GO! I HOPE CHANO'S STILL ALIVE!



WE'LL SEE HOW THE NAZIS LIKE THIS!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE AMERICAN PLANE STRAFED THE GERMANS REPEATEDLY... THEN THE ENGINE COUGHED, SPUTTERED, AND DIED...

I'VE GOT TO CRASH LAND THIS CRATE OR HIT THE SILK! OH, OH, THE WOMEN ARE LAYING OUT SHEETS, MARKING A RUNWAY!



WRADEK TOOK THEIR WORD FOR IT. THOUGH THE GROUND DIDN'T LOOK LEVEL FROM THE AIR, HE SET DOWN AND...

HO! AMERICAN GOOD FIGHTER! HI, CHANO! I REMEMBER YOU! MY DAD, ANTON WRADEK, WAS YOUR FRIEND!



THE GERMANS RAN AND WE CAPTURED THEM! NOW, WE GAS YOUR PLANE! WE CAPTURED GAS FROM GERMANS! GOOD, HAH?

WONDERFUL! IF I GET BACK WITH THE PLANE, THEY'LL DECORATE ME!



THE ENGINE RAN ROUGH ON THE CAPTURED GAS... BUT HE GOT THE PLANE INTO THE AIR ONCE MORE...



I'LL BE AT MY FIELD IN FIVE MINUTES! THEY'LL SURE BE SURPRISED!



LATER... CHANO SAID TWO GERMAN DIVISIONS ARE THERE AND CAN'T LEAVE! HE AND HIS MEN ARE ALL HAPPY!

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN WRADEK! YOU HAVE SAVED YOUR FATHER'S PEOPLE!



END

SALUTE

TO

MATS

The Military Air Transport Service is a unified and integrated global route command. It provides global support, services and facilities for the United States Air Force. It is also the military air transport agency of the Department of Defense. The MATS furnishes strategic and scheduled air transport throughout the world for the entire military establishment.

The MATS is the result of one of the convincing lessons from World War II: That air power is not expressed by bomber and fighter aircraft alone, but by the total air effort of a nation, including air transport, manufacturing, and support functions. In February 1945, the late General H. H. Arnold, then commanding the Army Air Force, summed up this lesson when he said: "We have learned and must not forget that from now on air transport is an essential of air power, in fact, of all national power."

In World War II, our transport effort was represented in the Air Force by the Air Transport Command and in the Navy by Naval Air Transport Service. At its peak operational period in July of 1945, the Air Transport Command operated some 3,000 cargo aircraft and was manned by approximately a quarter of a million personnel who operated wherever Allied Forces were. The Naval Air Transport Service, while a smaller organization, was highly effective. At its peak, NATS operated more than 55,000 miles of routes, using some 26,000 personnel and with a fleet of 500 aircraft.

Before MATS was three years old, the command and its services were twice called upon to participate in operations that shaped the course of history. The first is known as the Berlin Airlift and the second as the Pacific Airlift.

Operation "Vittles," as the Berlin Airlift was called, is immortalized as one of the most dramatic displays of peacetime transport air power in the history of world aviation. Few believed a city of 2½ million people could be supported entirely by air. Vittles set in motion a machinery

that was to be duplicated two years later almost to the day when the North Koreans pushed past the 38th Parallel on June 25, 1950, half a world away.

In Berlin, early on the morning of June 21, 1948, without warning the Russians closed the railroad leading into the city. The Western Powers were left with two choices: Sacrificing democratic doctrines and political prestige by withdrawing or standing firm. They decided to stand.

Five days after the blockade was slapped on, the U.S. Air Force in Europe in conjunction with the British Royal Air Force, began flying food, medicine, coal and other supplies into the beleaguered city. On June 26, the first day of operation, 80 tons of goods were delivered to Berlin from the Rhein-Main and Wiesbaden Airfields. Meanwhile the British laid down six and one half long tons as their share of the lift that day.

At the start USAFE's fleet of twin-engine C-47 transports were used. Later the fleet was augmented by C-54s furnished by MATS and Troop Carrier units of the Tactical Air Command and the Alaskan, Pacific and Caribbean Air Commands.

By mid-July the requirement for air transport had become critical. The maximum capacity of USAF, 1,500 tons a day and that of RAF, 750 tons, proved insufficient to supply the population of the western sector of Berlin. Some 4,500 tons of airlift daily was estimated as the minimum requirement. Of this total, United States transports would have to carry at least 3,000 tons.

This meant a tremendous increase in the number of four-engine transports and dictated the establishment of a separate organization — An Airlift Task Force — to direct the operation. Although the Military Air Transport Service had been born just six weeks earlier, it was prepared for the job.

On July 23, MATS was directed by the Air

Force to send 72 C-54s (eight squadrons) to Germany. Also sufficient personnel to form a Task Force Headquarters to direct the Berlin Airlift. All to be under the operational control of the commanding general, USAFE.

This required more than 2,500 personnel, which amounted to three crews per aircraft, headquarters staff, supervisory traffic personnel, maintenance men, and a corresponding amount of equipment. This was none too great a force when considering that the Task Force was to operate at peak loads in an area more than 3,000 miles from the Zone of the Interior.

Four days after the Air Force directive, the advance Task Force party left for Germany, and movement of the C-54 squadrons was under way. Two Atlantic Division squadrons departed for Europe immediately. The remaining six squadrons, coming from Continental and Pacific Divisions, winged in from points as far away as Tokyo, Japan.

In a joint letter which established the Combined Airlift Task Force on October 15, 1948, Headquarters USAFE and British Air Force Operations jointly set forth the mission: "... to effect delivery to Berlin, in a safe and efficient manner, the maximum tonnage possible." This challenge was fulfilled on Easter, April 17, 1949 when 12,940.9 tons of food, coal and supplies were delivered in a 24-hour period, breaking all tonnage records. When the Operation ended on September 30, 1949, an overall total of 2,325,509.6 tons had been delivered to the city during the 15-month period.

At the beginning of the Airlift, five existing airfields were selected for operation. By the end of the blockade, 11 bases were in use and an additional base was under construction. Of all the difficulties facing the Airlift, weather was one of the greatest. Low clouds, fog, freezing rain, turbulence, and ice were common. The Berlin Airlift overcame all obstacles during the winter months of 1948-1949, although operations were hampered by extremely heavy fog and rain.

On May 12, Soviet officials announced the lifting of the blockade. The Airlift was ordered continued, however, until reserve supply stocks reached a satisfactory level. We will now turn to the Pacific Airlift.

Out of a sullen, grey mist of early morning, July 25, 1950, four North Korean fighters struck Kimpo Airfield outside Seoul, raking a MATS C-54 with machine-gun and cannon fire. The four-engine transport, motors idling, had been waiting for a signal to take off.

The attack was over almost as quickly as it started. Within minutes, the Yak fighters disappeared into the grey mist. A bullet-torn, smoldering transport was the only evidence of the history making attack. The plane was the first American aircraft lost or damaged in the Korean conflict. Before the attack, this transport and other MATS aircraft and MATS supporting services had been fulfilling their peacetime mission of supporting world-wide Armed Forces activities. They were operating with reduced personnel.

In the Korean war, our fighting men for the first time in history had to depend on air transport to evacuate casualties back home. Responsibility for the air evacuation of wounded from Japan across the Pacific to hospitals in the United States fell upon the MATS fleet of heavy four-engined transports in the Pacific Airlift.

From July 1950 to April 1951, MATS evacuated 22,300 war casualties and patients from the Pacific Theater to the United States. More than 6,000 men were returned in December alone, including 448 in one day. Most flights were in C-54 Skymasters, which stopped at Midway and Honolulu. Other evacuations were in Boeing C-97A Stratofreighters and C-74 Globemasters which made the 3,921 Tokyo-Honolulu run nonstop in 15 hours.

The responsibility for air rescue fell upon the MATS Third Air Rescue Squadron stationed in Japan. Its personnel and planes were immediately increased. The squadron flew to Korea with the vanguard of the Air Force. From its base in Japan, the Air Rescue Service guarded the transport airplanes in the North Pacific ocean and the China Sea. Its SB-29s and SA-16s supported fighters and bomber operations over the Sea of Japan and through Korea.

Its planes covered bombing missions and stood by to orbit over the sea whenever and wherever United States bombers or fighters operated. The Air Rescue Service was directly or indirectly credited with the saving of more than 1,545 lives during the first nine months of the Korean operation. The bulk of these lives were saved by the squadron's helicopters operating at and beyond the front lines. Within three months after the Red attack, the Pacific Airlift transports were delivering 106 tons a day. During September, the Pacific Airlift exceeded the Berlin Airlift by 10,000 plane-miles a day.

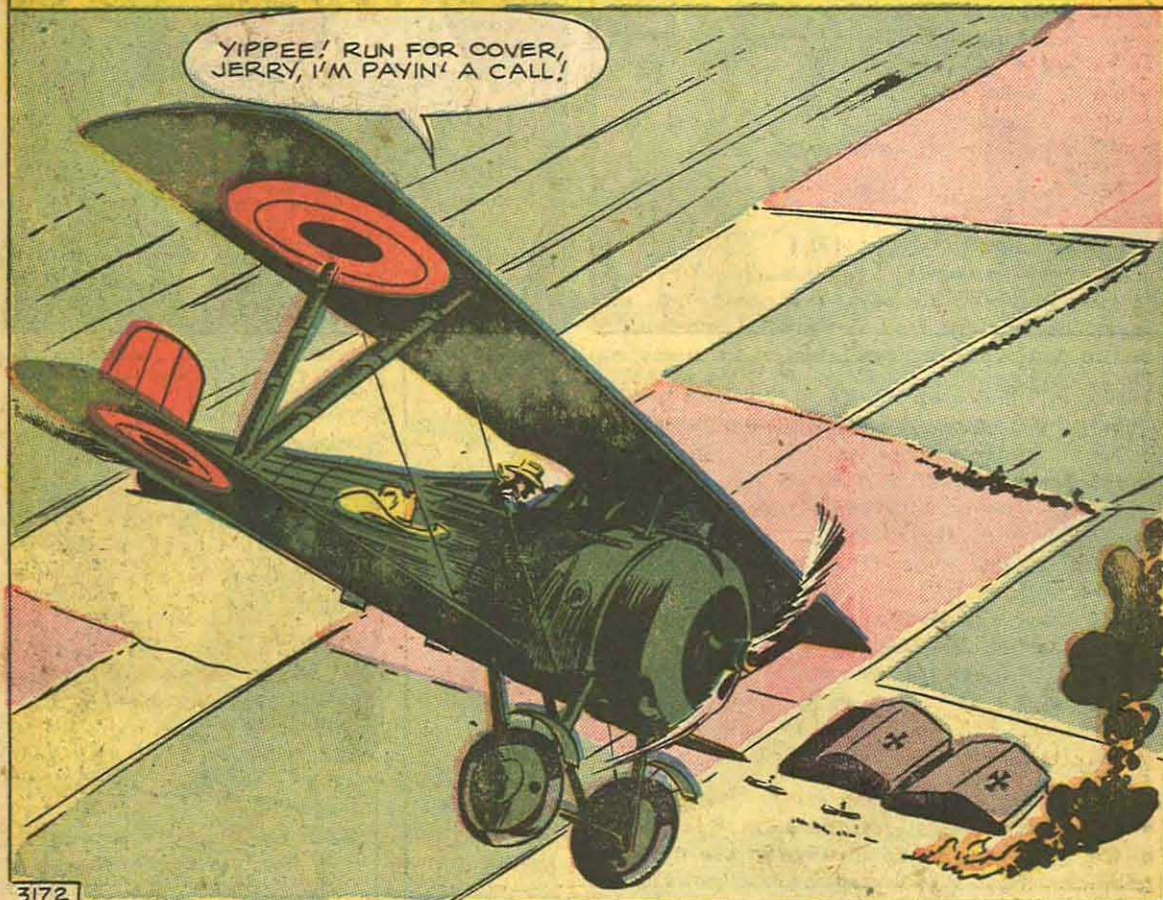
So we salute MATS because of their proud record and know they are always ready to serve Uncle Sam.

— THE END —

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE COWBOY ACE

SLIM CLOVIS WAS A LONG WAY FROM HOME WHEN THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY IN 1917! HE'D BEEN TOURING WITH A WILD WEST SHOW...AND THE MINUTE HE HEARD THE WORD, HE'D ENLISTED IN THE A.E.F. ... AND HE WOUND UP AS THE ONLY FIGHTER PILOT IN THE AIR WEARING SPURS!



3172

SLIM DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT GOING THRU CHANNELS WHEN HE SIGNED UP IN THE AIR CORPS! HE JUST WENT TO THE NEAREST FIELD AND...

YOU'RE OFF YOUR HOME RANGE, COWBOY! THAT GADGET IS AN AIRPLANE!

YEP, IT SURE IS! I'M AIMIN' TUH FLY ONE OF THEM RIGHT QUICK!



I THINK I'LL TAKE YOU FOR YOUR FIRST RIDE, SLIM! IT'S AGAINST REGULATIONS BUT...

YUH'LL NEVER GET ME TO SIGN UP IF YUH DON'T GIVE ME A SAMPLE! LET'S GO!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE ARMY AIR CORPS OPERATED THAT WAY IN THOSE DAYS! SLIM ACTUALLY HAD HIS FIRST FLYING LESSON BEFORE HE WAS SWORN IN! AND HE WAS A PILOT THIRTY DAYS LATER!

HIYA, CHIEF! NICE DAY, HUH?

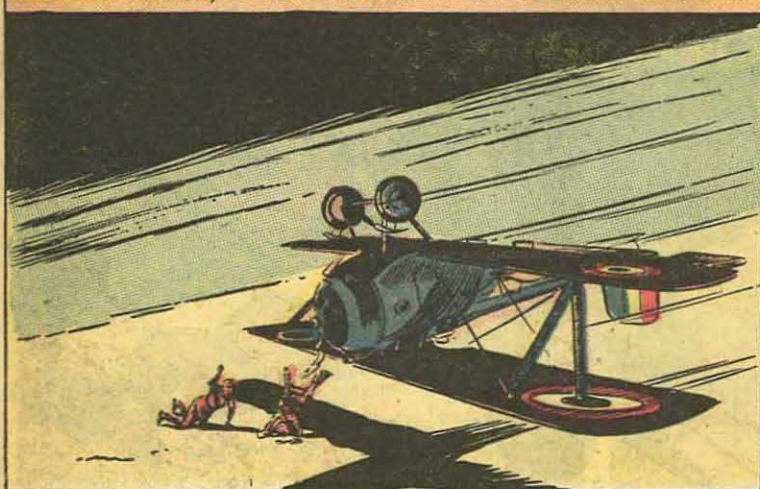
WHOA, COWBOY! CAPTAIN, WHO 'S HE? IS HE A MEMBER OF OUR SQUADRON?



YES, SIR, HE JUST RECEIVED HIS FLYING COMMISSION! LIEUTENANT CLOVIS, STAND AT ATTENTION! THIS IS COLONEL CLARK!



LT. CLOVIS, KNOWN TO EVERYONE AS SLIM, NEVER DID GO BY REGULATIONS! IN THE AIR, HE FLEW A PLANE LIKE A BUCKING BRONCO...



IT'S THAT COWBOY! I'LL COURT-MARTIAL HIM! I'LL-- BRING HIM TO ME!



...THE SLOPPIEST SOLDIER I'VE EVER SEEN! YOUR FLYING DAYS ARE OVER, YOU'LL BE... WHAT DO YOU WANT, LIEUTENANT?

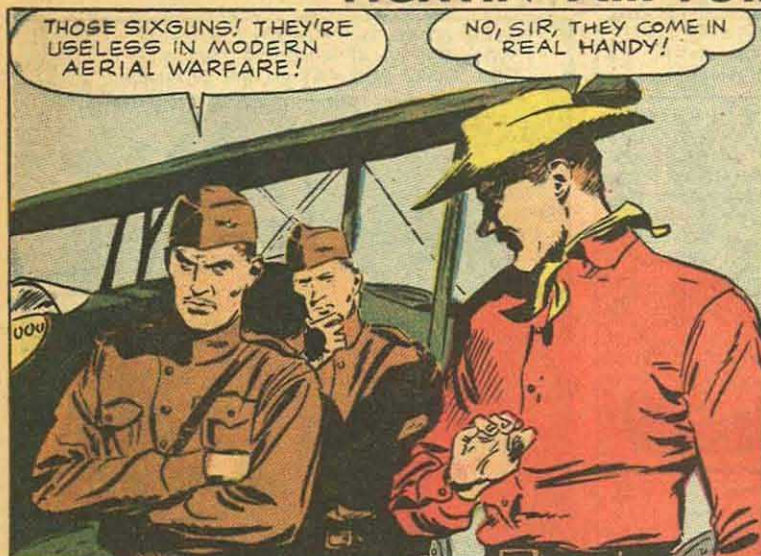


LIEUTENANT CLOVIS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CREDITED WITH DESTROYING AN OBSERVATION BALLOON AND TWO OF VON RICHTOFEN'S BEST PILOTS, COLONEL!

SHUCKS, 'T'WASN'T NOthin', COLONEL!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

LT. CLOVIS WAS TRANSFERRED THAT SAME DAY! THE GENERAL THOUGHT HE'D BE PUT ON NON-FLYING DUTY BUT PILOTS WERE SCARCE AND...

YOU'LL BE FLYING RECONNAISSANCE FROM NOW ON, CLOVIS! YOU CAN'T HEDGE-HOP AROUND IN A D.H.4!

I RECKON NOT, SIR! IT BREAKS MY HEART TO HAVE MY NICE LITTLE SPAD TAKEN AWAY!



THERE GOES THE FLYING COWBOY! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE HE'LL FIND IN THAT SLOW PLANE...



OH, OH! THERE'S ONE OF VON RICHTOFEN'S ACES! HE'S SPOTTED ME ALREADY!



YUH'RE SHOOTIN' ME UP, BUDDY... BUT IN A MINUTE, YUH'LL GET A SURPRISE!



I MAY GET A... I DID! HE'S ON FIRE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THAT WAS SLIM CLOVIS'S FIFTH ENEMY PLANE! HE WAS AN ACE... AND HIS OLD SQUADRON BUDDIES CAME OVER FOR THE CELEBRATION!

YOU ACTUALLY SHOT A FOKKER D.VII DOWN IN A D.H.4! HOW DOES IT COMPARE WITH YOUR OLD SPAD?

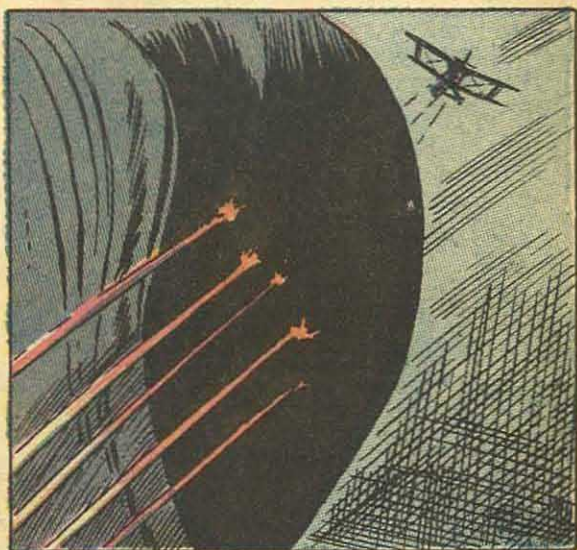
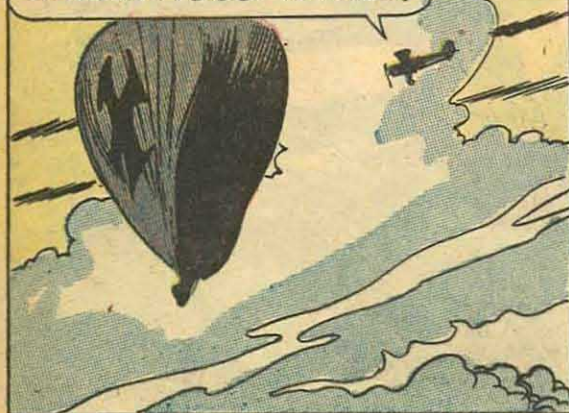


IT'S LIKE TRYIN' TUH FLY A FREIGHT CAR WITH SQUARE WHEELS, USIN' A RUBBER BAND ENGINE! I'LL BE BACK FLYIN' SPADS PRETTY SOON, WAIT AN' SEE!

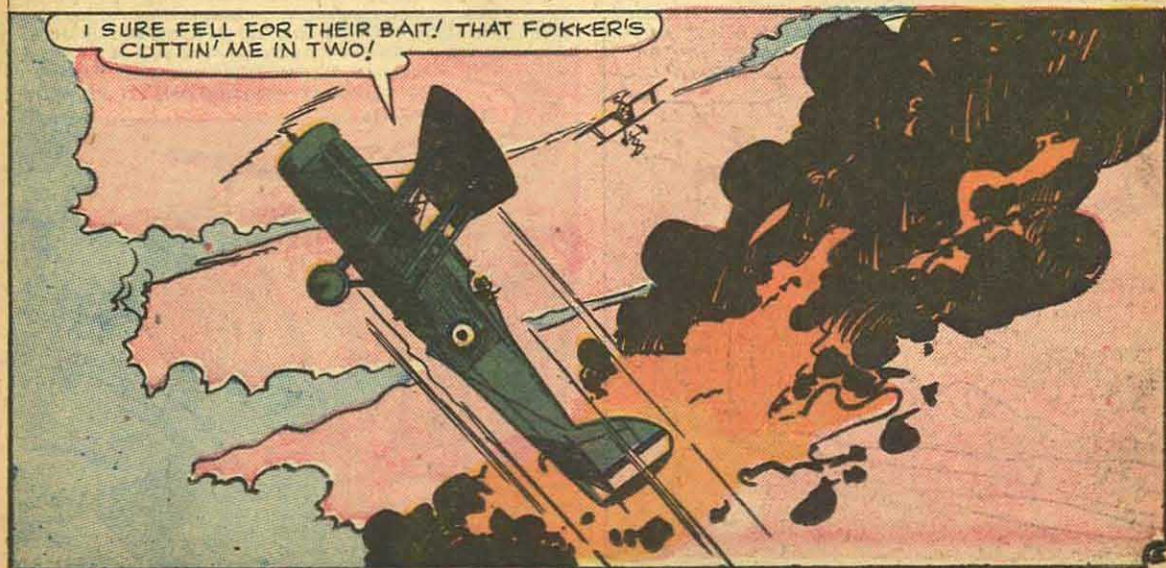


CLOVIS WAS SENT OUT ON RECONNAISSANCE THE NEXT MORNING! HE FLEW UNTIL HIS GAS WAS ALMOST GONE... THEN TURNED FOR HOME!

OH, OH! THERE'S A GERMAN OBSERVATION BALLOON! I'VE GOT TO NAIL IT!



I SURE FELL FOR THEIR BAIT! THAT FOKKER'S CUTTIN' ME IN TWO!



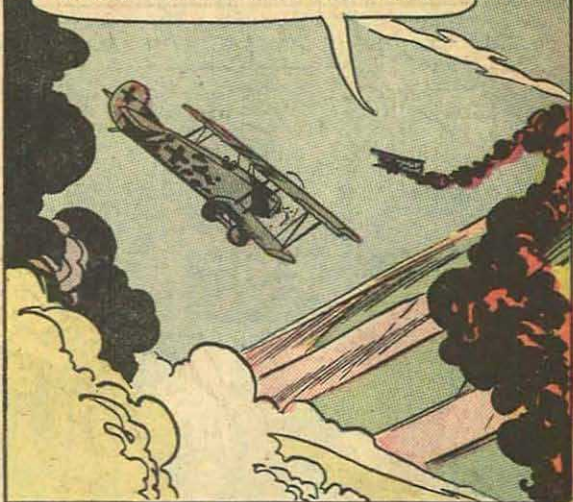
FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE GERMAN CLOSED IN! THEN, SUDDENLY, HIS GUNS STOPPED... HE HAD A JAM!

I'M IN REAL TROUBLE NOW! I'M OUT OF GAS, TOO FAR TO GLIDE HOME!



THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT A PRISONER FOR SURE! I'M GONNA FOOL 'EM!



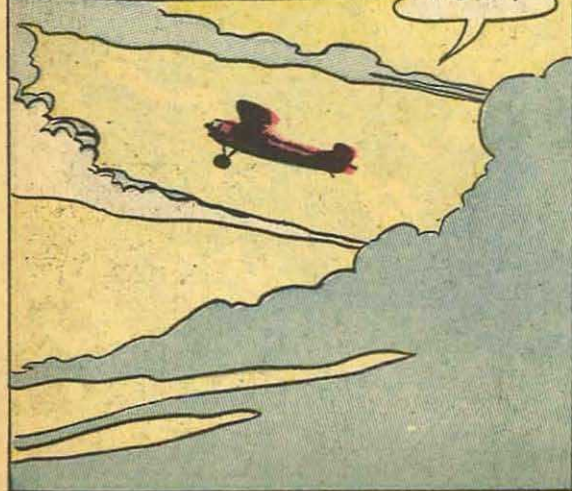
I NEED THAT SHIP... AN' NO JERRY'S GONNA STOP ME!



SLIM MADE IT TO THE FOKKER... THE ENGINE WAS STILL TURNING OVER! HE SLAMMED THE THROTTLE FORWARD AND...



I'VE GOT TO LAND BEFORE THEY SPOT ME! IF I DON'T, THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WILL SHOOT ME UP!



TEN MINUTES LATER... YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB, CLOVIS! I WAS A LITTLE HASTY TRANSFERRING YOU FROM THIS PURSUIT SQUADRON! I'LL REMEDY THAT AT ONCE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

CARRIER COMPLEX

LT. JEFF BALDWIN WAS A VETERAN NAVY PILOT.... HE'D LOGGED THOUSANDS OF HOURS IN FIGHTER PLANES.... BUT HE COULDN'T GET USED TO CARRIERS! HE WAS AN EXPERT AT SETTING A CORSAIR DOWN ON A POSTAGE STAMP SIZED BABY CARRIER.... BUT, BIG OR LITTLE, HE DISLIKED DUTY ABOARD ONE...



53174

RELEASE THE LINES FORE AND AFT AS SOON AS WE HIT THE WATER! BE QUICK, BOYS! THAT CORSAIR WON'T FLOAT-- AND LT. BALDWIN MAY BE INJURED!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



THAT'S THE SECOND CORSAIR YOU'VE SPLASHED, JEFF! YOU LIKE SWIMMING?

DON'T BE A JOKER! YOU SAW THAT TRIP WIRE UP.. YOU KNOW I COULDN'T HELP IT!



IT WAS A MECHANICAL FAILURE IN THE ARRESTING GEAR.. JEFF WAS CLEARED OF BLAME! BUT HE WAS BITTER...
THAT'S ALL MISTER! WE'VE GOT IT LOGGED AS MECHANICAL FAILURE!

BEG YOUR PARDON SIR, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! I WANT A TRANSFER...



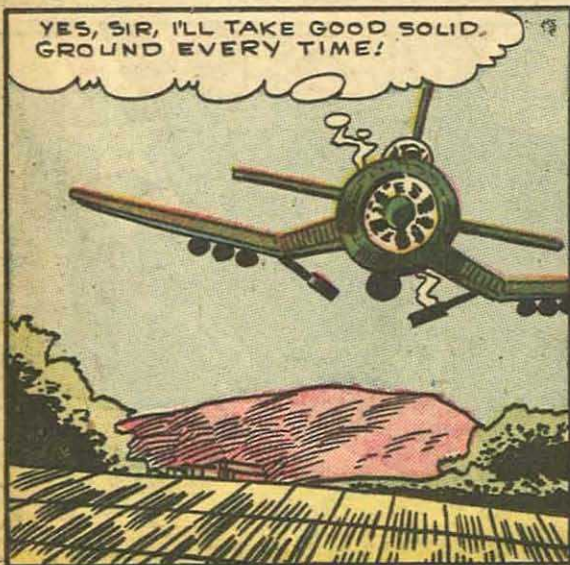
LT. BALDWIN GOT HIS TRANSFER TO A CORSAIR SQUADRON FLYING OFF AN AIRSTRIP ON AN ATOLL NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN A CARRIER! HE LIKED IT...

THE CHOW ON A CARRIER MOVES AROUND WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO LAND! THINGS GO WRONG ANY WHERE ELSE!

YEAH. BUT A CARRIER MOVES AROUND WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO LAND! THINGS GO WRONG FOR ME ON A CARRIER THAT NEVER GO WRONG ANYWHERE ELSE!



I LIKE THIS DUTY! WE TAKE OFF, FLY A FEW HUNDRED MILES TO BOMB THE NIPS, THEN COME HOME AGAIN! AND THIS FIELD WON'T HAVE MOVED FIFTY MILES OR BE BUCK-IN' LIKE A BRONCO IN A CROSS SEA!

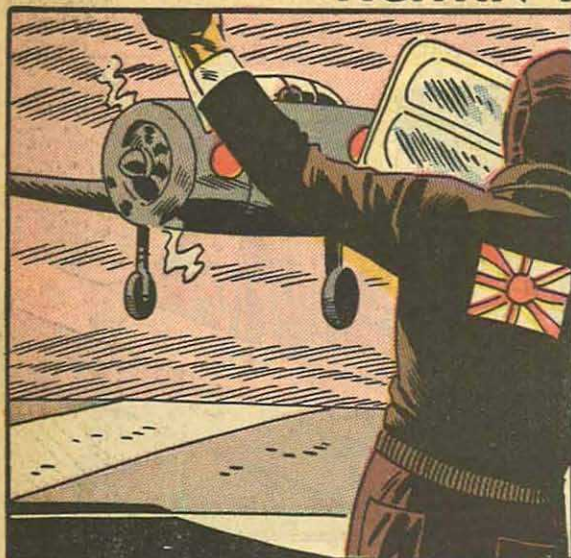


YES, SIR, I'LL TAKE GOOD SOLID GROUND EVERY TIME!



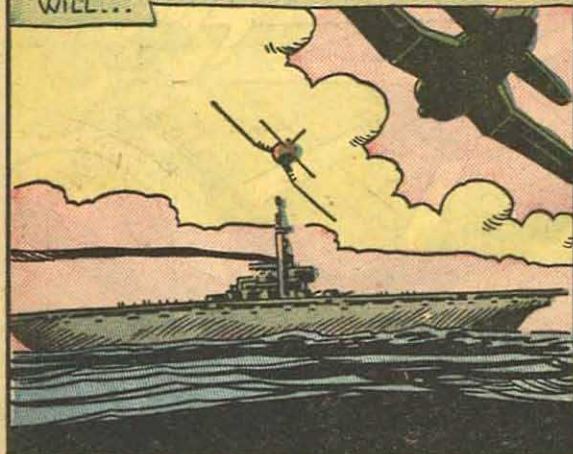
JEFF'S CORSAIR SQUADRON ENCOUNTERED A JAP CARRIER SQUADRON THAT DAY! JEFF STAYED OUT OF THE DOGFIGHT ON ORDERS.... WAITING TO FOLLOW THEM HOME...

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

IN 1944, CARRIER X WAS OUR NEWEST, FASTEST FLAT TOP! AND SHE ROAMED THE WESTERN PACIFIC LIKE A GRAY GHOST, SMASHING THE JAPS AT WILL...



THAT'S JEFF NOW! HE'S SMOOTH... BUT CARRIERS ARE PURE BAD LUCK FOR HIM!



LT. BALDWIN AND SQUADRON REPORTING AS ORDERED, SIR!

CHEER, UP, MISTER! I KNOW YOUR RECORD... BUT YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE ON MY SHIP! HAVE YOUR MEN REPORT TO THE BRIEFING ROOM!



THE AIR OPERATIONS OFFICER BRIEFED THEM FAST!

YOUR GROUP WILL STRAFE THEIR FIELD, BALDWIN! COME IN LOW FROM THE WEST-- DON'T LET A PLANE GET INTO THE AIR! OUR AVENGERS WILL DO THE REST!

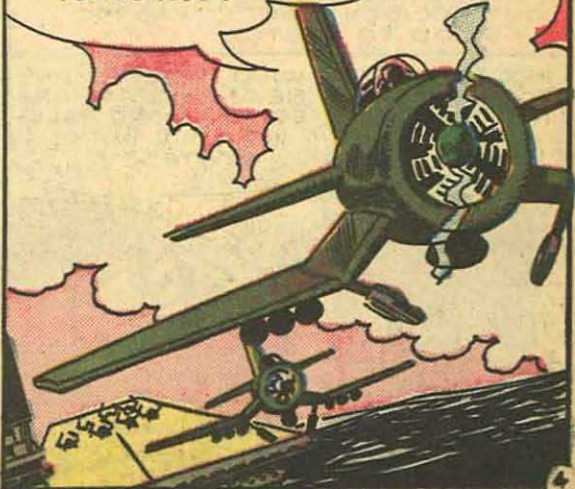


WE'LL NAIL THE JAPS IF WE JUST GET OFF THIS GALLOPING AIR-PORT IN ONE PIECE!

I HAVE A HUNCH ALL YOUR BAD LUCK IS BEHIND YOU, JEFF!



LET'S GO, BOYS! WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO TOKYO NOW!

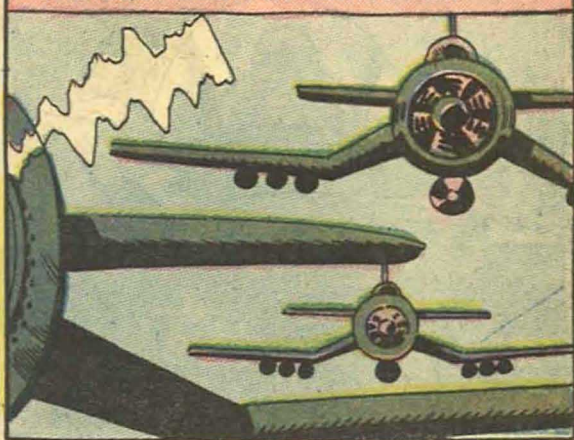


FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

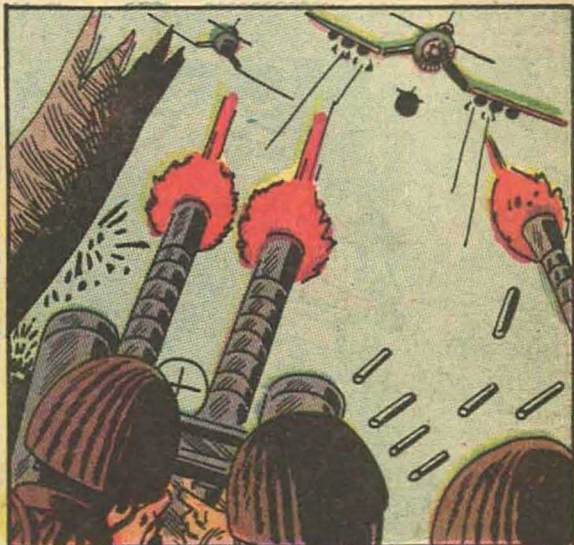
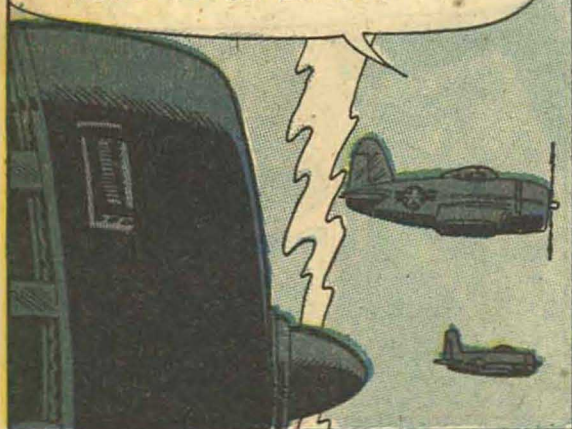
I THINK I'VE OUTLIVED
THE JINX/ I LIKE THE
NEW ASSIGNMENT!



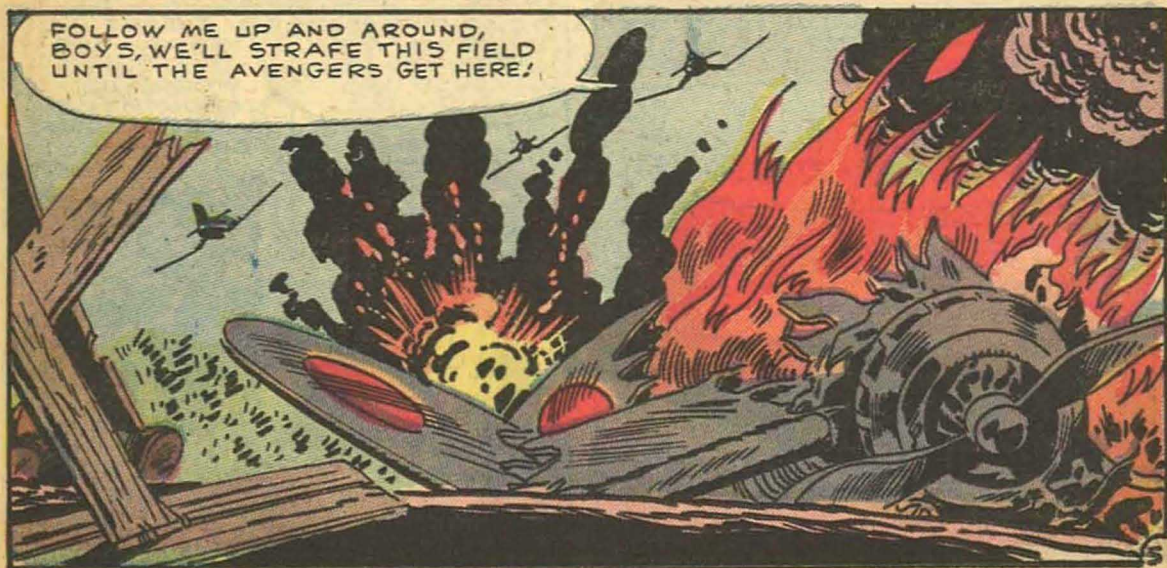
THE STRIKE WAS AT JAPAN'S BIGGEST
AIRFIELD EAST OF THE HOME ISLANDS/
THREE FLIGHTS OF BOMB-LADEN
AVENGERS WENT... PRECEDED BY
THE SQUADRON OF CORSAIRS!



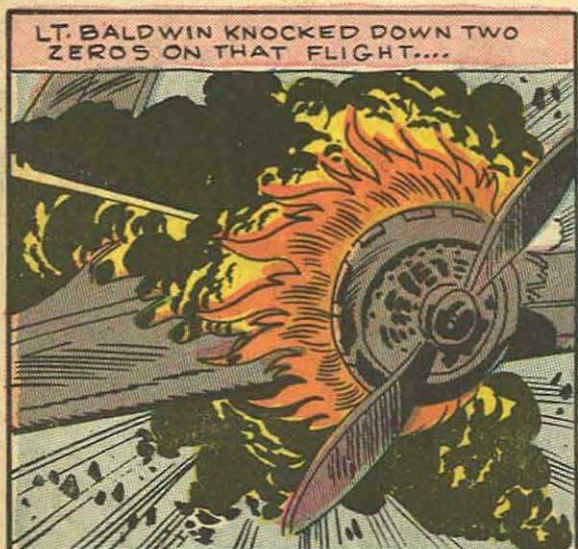
WHITE LEADER ONE TO SQUAD-
RON/ FOLLOW ME DOWN, BOYS/
WE'RE GOING IN AT ONE ZERO ZERO
REPEAT ONE ZERO ZERO/ FROM
THERE WE GO LOWER!



FOLLOW ME UP AND AROUND,
BOYS, WE'LL STRAFE THIS FIELD
UNTIL THE AVENGERS GET HERE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

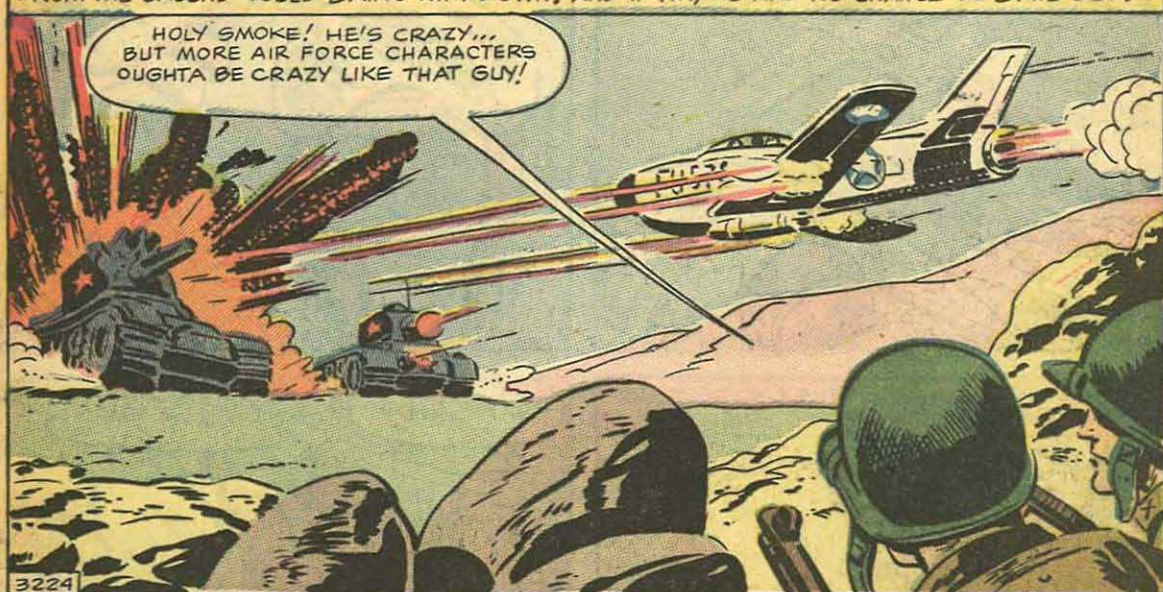


END

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

LOW LEVEL ATTACK

LT. DAVIS KNEW HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS--FLYING BELOW FIFTY FEET, EVEN SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM THE GROUND COULD BRING HIM DOWN! AND IF HIT, HE HAD NO CHANCE TO BAIL OUT!



JEFFIE DAVIS HAD BEEN GREEN A MONTH BEFORE! HE'D GRADUATED FROM KELLY FIELD IN TEXAS AND BEEN SHIPPED IMMEDIATELY TO KOREA...



GET A CHUTE AND FLYING GEAR! I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU OUT ON A GROUND SUPPORT MISSION!



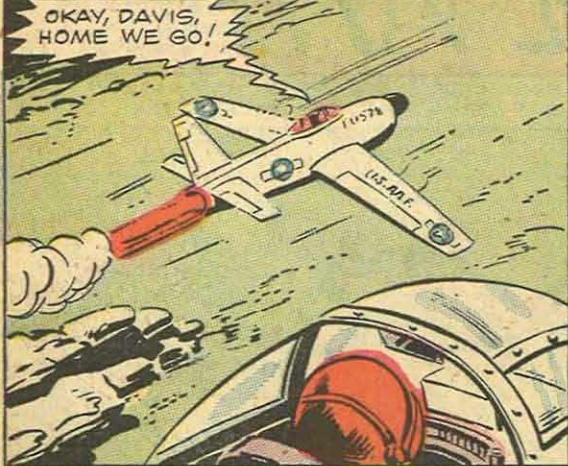
A FEW MINUTES LATER, LT. DAVIS TOOK OFF BEHIND CAPTAIN DESANTO... AS HE STARTED TO CLIMB AFTER TAKE-OFF...



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

CAPT. DESANTO DOVE, STRAFED AND BOMBED ALMOST AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL! BUT HIS NEW PUPIL STAYED HIGHER...MUCH HIGHER!

OKAY, DAVIS,
HOME WE GO!

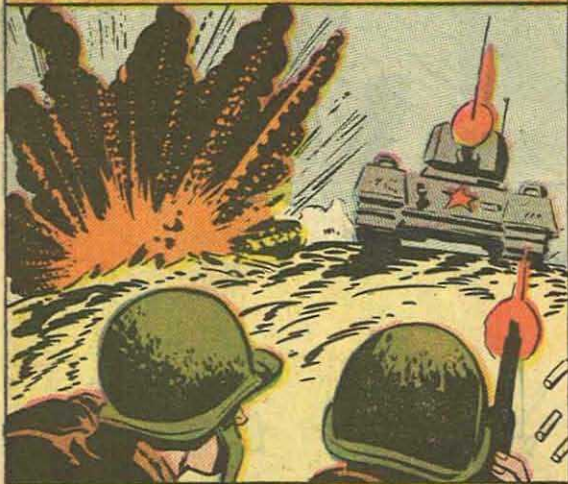


AT THE FIELD, CAPT. DESANTO WAS CURT...

DON'T BOTHER SAYING YOU'RE SORRY,
DAVIS! I'M SENDING YOU UP WITH THE
GROUNDPOUNDERS FOR A WEEK!
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND LOW-LEVEL
FLYING THEN!

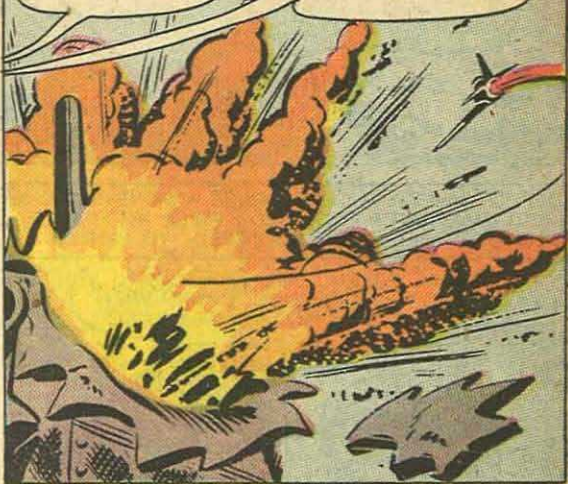


DAVIS SPENT SIX DAYS ON THE LINE, ACTING AS AIR-GROUND LIAISON OFFICER...



WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?

ONE OF YOUR JOES
BAGGED HIM!



LT. DAVIS
ASKED FOR A
LOW-LEVEL
ATTACK
MISSION
THE
DAY HE
RETURNED!
CAPT.
DESANTO
ACCOMPAN-
IED HIM...

PULL UP A FEW FEET, DAVIS!
THE ONES YUH MISS WITH YOUR GUNS,
YOU'RE SINGIN' WITH YOUR
JET BLAST!

I KNOW HOW THE GROUND-
POUNDERS FEEL NOW--
I'LL DO IT MY WAY, CAPTAIN!



END

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

PLOESTI CAN'T BE BOMBED

DEEP IN THE HEART OF EUROPE, PLOESTI OIL FIELDS PUMPED OUT THE BLACK GOLD THAT KEPT HITLER'S PLANES FLYING, HIS U-BOATS AT SEA, HIS PANZER DIVISIONS ROLLING! IT WAS BEYOND BOMBER RANGE IN 1944, EVERYONE THOUGHT... UNTIL A B24 LIBERATOR ROARED OUT OF THE NIGHT AND STARTED THE RAGING FIRES THAT MEANT DOOM FOR THE NAZIS!



52761

IN THAT LIBERATOR, PILOTED BY CAPTAIN MIKE ADAMS, BOMBER LT. SAM NAMM GRINNED AS HE RELEASED THE LAST OF HIS BOMBS...

TAKE US OUT OF HERE, SKIPPER!
WE PASTERED THEM GOOD!

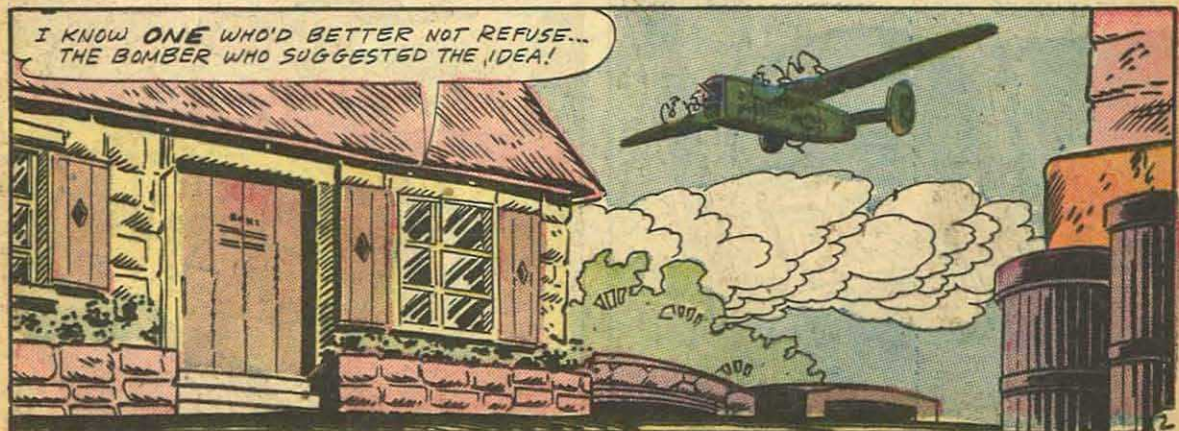
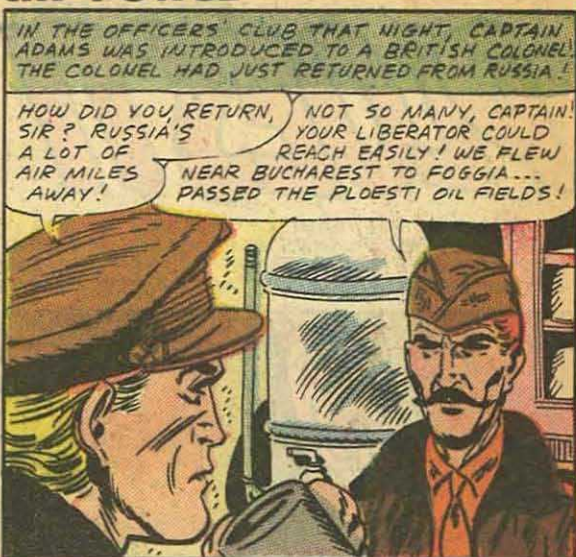


WELL, WE KNOCKED
DOWN A FEW MORE
WORTHLESS TARGETS
WE'RE REAL
BIG HEROES!

SHUT UP SAM! WE
FLY WHERE WE'RE
ORDERED TO FLY,
BOMB WHAT WE'RE
TOLD TO BOMB!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



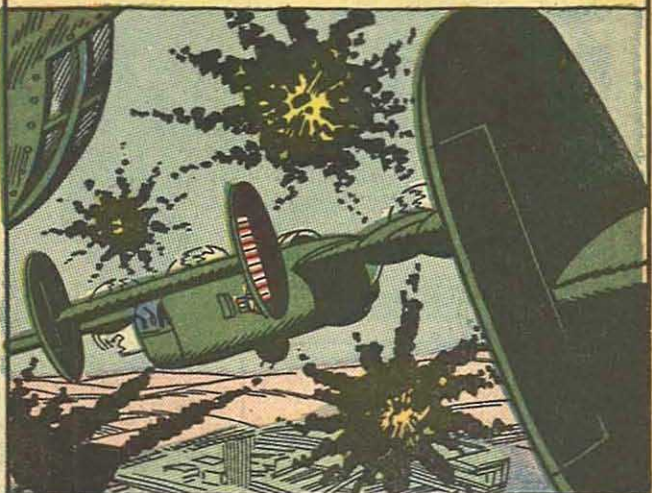
FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THAT WAS IN THE SPRING OF 1944! HITLER'S NAZI ARMOR STILL PROWLED ACROSS EUROPE, POWERED BY OIL FROM PLOESTI! CAPTAIN ADAMS' CREW BEGAN PREPARING FOR THE FIRST LEG OF THE PLOESTI RAID...

ALL SET, TEX? THIS ONE IS GOING TO MAKE THE BERLIN RAIDS LOOK LIKE PICNICS!

I'M READY, CAPTAIN! YOU CAN TAKE OFF RIGHT NOW!

THEIR FIRST MISSION WAS HAMBURG! THEY FLEW IN COMPANY WITH OTHER LIBERATORS...



SO FAR IT'S BEEN LIKE ANY OTHER RAID, MEN! NOW WE KEEP GOING WHILE THE OTHERS TURN BACK!



THE LUFTWAFFE THREW EVERY PLANE THEY HAD UP AGAINST THE B24--BUT MIKE ADAMS KEPT FLYING!

KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR ME 109'S, BOYS! IT'S GOING TO GET TOUGH!

YOU GOT ONE, TEX!

SAVE SOME AMMO FOR THE RETURN TRIP! WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET ANY IN RUSSIA



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

RUSSIAN FIGHTERS CAME OUT TO MEET THE SHIP! AND THE LAST THIRD OF THE FLIGHT WAS EASY!



WELCOME TO RUSSIA, CAPT. ADAMS! IF YOUR PLOESTI RAID SUCCEEDS IT WILL DO MUCH FOR OUR CAUSE!

IT'LL SUCCEED! AFTER ME, THERE'LL BE THOUSANDS MORE... PLOESTI'S GOING TO TAKE PLENTY!

WITH THE B-24 GASSED AND ARMED ONCE MORE, CAPTAIN ADAMS WASTED NO TIME! IT WAS DUSK BUT HIS TARGET WOULD BE WELL MARKED!

YOU'D BETTER ENJOY THIS RAID, SAM! IT WAS ALL YOUR IDEA!

SOMETIMES I THINK I TALK TOO MUCH!

GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN! REMEMBER--OUR PEOPLE WILL LIGHT FLARES NEAR THE BIG REFINERY! DROP YOUR BOMBS WITHIN THE MARKED AREA!



WE'RE LIT UP LIKE EBBETS FIELD IN A NIGHT GAME!

SHUT UP! WE'RE ON TARGET!

STEADY! STEADY! STEADY!

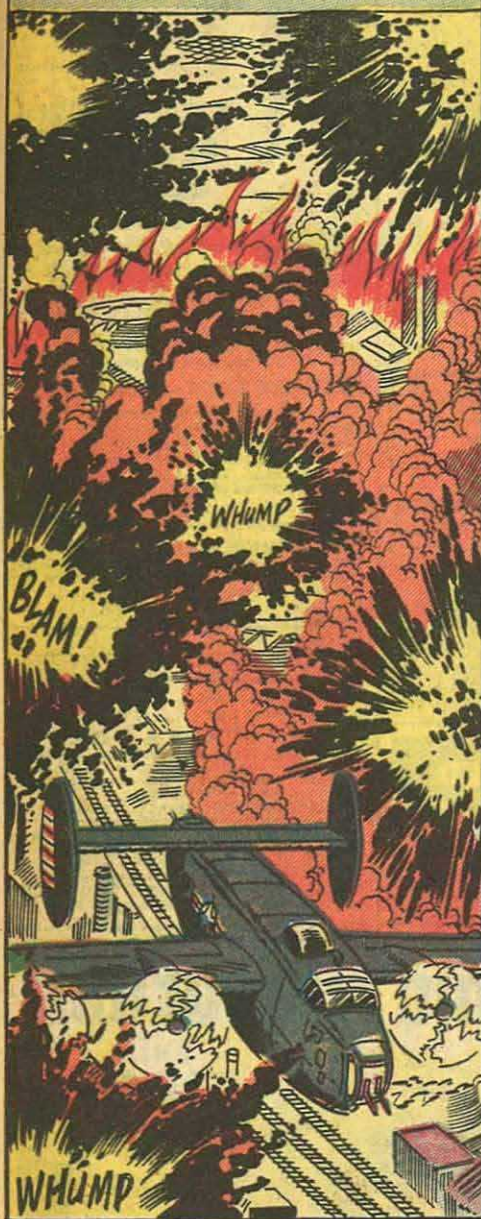
OKAY, SAM! SHE'S ALL YOURS!

THE B-24 EXCITED NO SUSPICION AS IT MOVED INTO NAZI TERRITORY! NOT UNTIL THEY NEARED THE REFINERY ITSELF DID THE ENEMY AWAKEN!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

LT SAM NAMM PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE OR THE ME109'S. HIS BOMBS SCREAMED DOWN THROUGH THE SEARCHLIGHT CONES AND...



NUMBER THREE'S ON FIRE, MIKE!

I KNOW! I'LL FEATHER THE PROP! MAYBE IT'LL BLOW ITSELF OUT!



WE CAN MAKE IT TO FOGGIA... JUST KEEP KNOCKING DOWN THE ME'S!

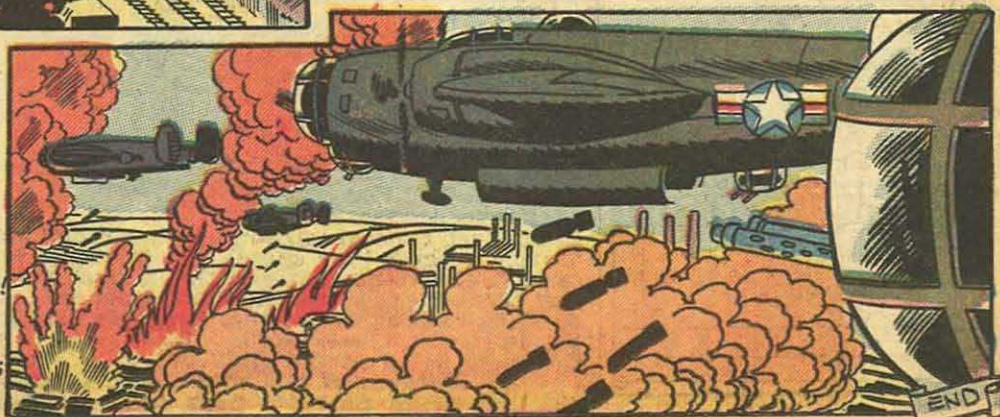


THE B24 LIMPED INTO FOGGIA NEAR DAWN! BUT NO ONE WAS ASLEEP WHEN THEY LANDED!

WELL DONE CAPTAIN! YOU BLAZED THE TRAIL...WE'LL WIPE PLOESTI OFF THE MAP!



THE PLOESTI OIL FIELDS BECAME A REGULAR TARGET ON THE TRIANGULAR MILK RUN! ENGLAND TO GERMANY AND BACK, TO RUSSIA, REFUEL THEN PLOESTI, FOGGIA AND ENGLAND! IT BROKE HITLER'S BACK!



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BIG MONEY

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TOP MEN MAKE \$5-\$10 AN HOUR
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JUST 3 SALES DAILY Earn You Up to \$660 EXTRA Every Month!

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Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

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MASON SHOE MFG. CO., Dept. 889
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

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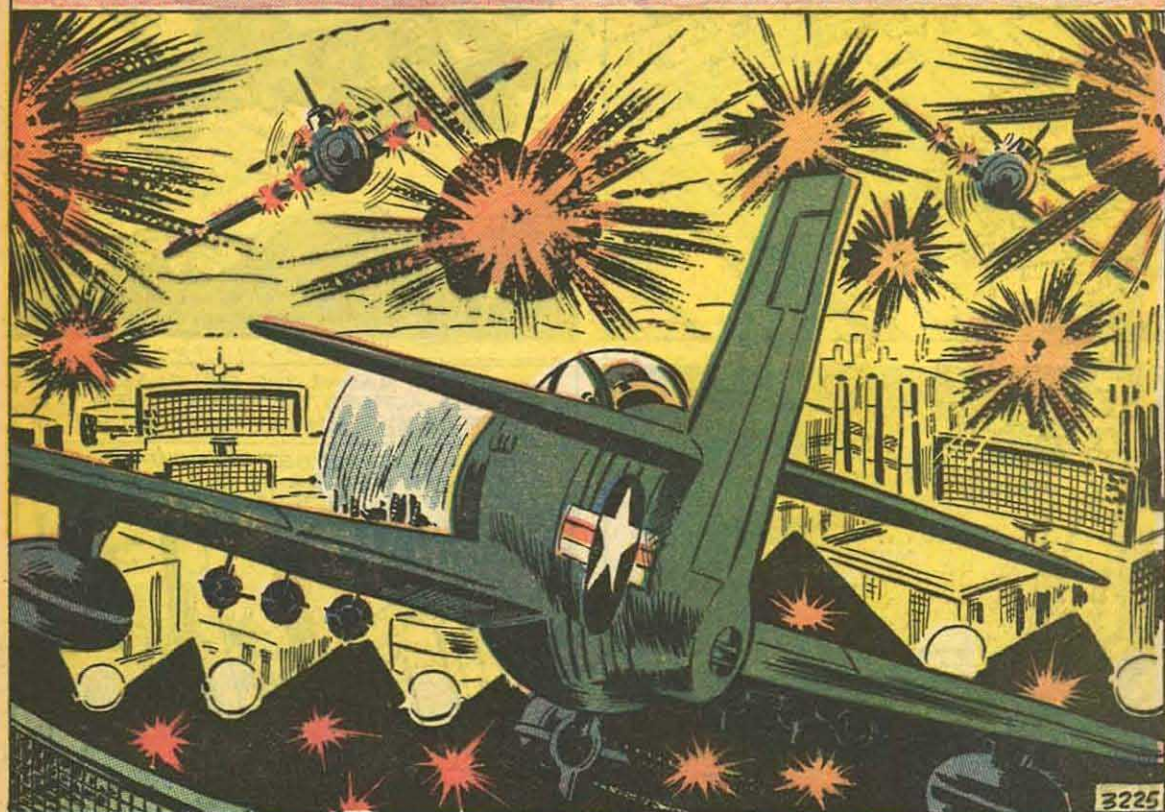


ONLY
\$14.95

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

NIGHT RAID

THE LARGEST AMMUNITION DUMP IN WESTERN EUROPE WAS RINGED WITH MILE-DEEP ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES! RADAR-EQUIPPED GERMAN NIGHT FIGHTERS CIRCLED ABOVE WAITING FOR THE UNWARY ALLIED PLANES TO APPEAR... WAITING FOR SOMEONE AS FOOLISH AS CAPT. MIKE ANDREWS!



3225

CAPTAIN ANDREWS KNEW WHAT WE'D LOST TRYING TO GET BOMBS ONTO THE HEAVILY-DEFENDED AMMO DUMP! HE HAD A PLAN OF HIS OWN...

I IMAGINE OUR INTELLIGENCE BOYS HAVE A COPY OF THE LAYOUT THERE, SIR! IF I HAD A COPY OF IT TO MEMORIZE, I COULD GET IT IN THERE ALONE!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, MIKE!

I'M NOT CRAZY, SIR! ONE BOMB IN THE RIGHT PLACE COULD DO IT! IF I COULD FLY LOW-- REALLY LOW, THEIR RADAR WOULDN'T PICK ME UP!

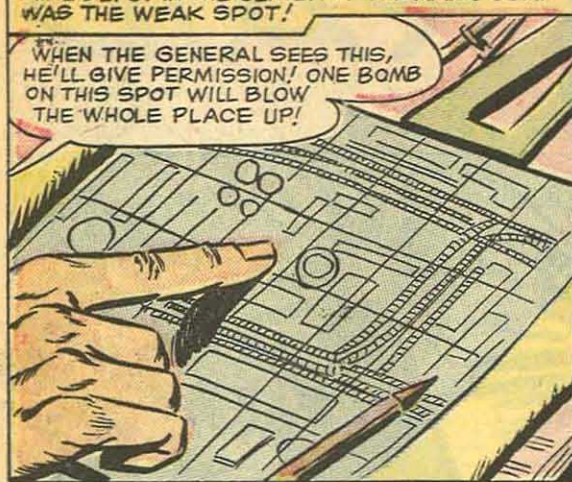
IF YOU INSIST, CAPTAIN, I'LL HAVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF YOU ON WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DUMP! WE'LL MAKE THE DECISION ABOUT YOUR FLIGHT LATER!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

CAPTAIN ANDREWS FOUND WHAT HE WANTED IN THE MAP INTELLIGENCE SHOWED HIM...A LAND MINE DEPOT IN THE CENTER OF THE AMMO DUMP WAS THE WEAK SPOT!

WHEN THE GENERAL SEES THIS, HE'LL GIVE PERMISSION! ONE BOMB ON THIS SPOT WILL BLOW THE WHOLE PLACE UP!



CAPT. ANDREWS INSISTED HE'D SUCCEED...HIS GENERAL HAD TO AGREE TO LET HIM TRY...



TOO LOW FOR RADAR, THE P-51 FLASHED UNDETECTED ACROSS THE RHINE! OVER THE TARGET, HE WAS FINALLY SPOTTED BUT...

THEY'LL PROBABLY GET ME NOW-- BUT THEY'D BETTER DO IT IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS BECAUSE...



...THERE IT GOES!



LATER...

WELL DONE, CAPTAIN! WE GOT THE WORD SECONDS AFTER IT BLEW UP!



END



Primitive wars were between men on land. They fought each other with such weapons as rocks, clubs, and rude spears. Later the range of the weapons increased. When a man threw a stone at an enemy, he was guiding a missile. When he aimed an arrow in his bow and released the arrow, he was aiming and guiding that missile. When men began to use boats they did their fighting on water. So for many centuries, men fought battles on land and on sea. In this present century, man began to fight in the air. In 1945 the Atomic Bomb flashed upon the world scene in a blaze of devastation that made it the most spectacular weapon to come out of World War II.

But today, another weapon which saw its first action in that conflict is getting a lot of attention. This is the guided missile and in the next war, should it ever take place, these missiles will be the leading weapon. It will be a war of Missiles versus Missiles. The U.S. Navy has become the first military service in the world to hold a full house in these eerie new weapons.

As a surface-to-surface missile we have **REGULUS** which has been in quantity production for several years. In the surface-to-air category we have the **TERRIER**. All ready to jump to the nation's defence as the armament of our first guided missile cruisers and destroyers. For air-to-air use we have **SPARROW**—slung beneath the wings of sleek Navy fighters like the **F3D-2M Skyknight** and the **F7U-3M Cutlass**. Also the **SEAWIND** carried by fighter and attack squadrons with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific. And as an air-to-surface weapon we have **PETREL** which can be launched against enemy ships and submarines by patrol planes far out of range of the target's anti-aircraft fire.

Besides these, there are a flock of other guided missiles on the way. In early 1958 **USS Galveston** is scheduled to rejoin the Fleet after being converted into our first cruiser armed with long-range, surface-to-air **TALOS**. **POLARIS**, a surface-to-surface intermediate range ballistic missile, should be in operation in about five years. **TARTAR**, a surface-to-air missile, smaller and less expensive than **TERRIER**, should soon be ready for use aboard destroyers and in the secondary batteries of larger ships.

Well, what is a guided missile? The navy records call it "an unmanned vehicle moving above the earth's surface, whose trajectory of flight path is capable of being altered by a mechanism within the vehicle." A leading expert in the field tells us that "a guided missile is referred to as a robot device that can be directed to a target by commands originating from outside the weapon or by instruments built into it. To be truly guided the craft must be capable of changing its course to take account of unpredictable factors or evasive movement of the target."

If you think about this modern definition, then the arrow in flight or the stone thrown by a man, really isn't a guided missile. Because once in the air, its path can't be changed. By common usage the term guided missile means a robot craft that flies through air or space.

These missiles or "birds" are classified by type according to the location of the target and location of the launcher. Therefore, a missile launched from the air (A) against a target on the sea or earth's surface (S) is called an air-to-surface missile or in abbreviated form, an **ASM**. Similarly, a surface-to-air missile becomes an **SAM**. A surface-to-surface missile is an **SSM** and an air-to-air missile is an **AAM**. In general usage, these four types

cover the field.

No matter what you call them, all guided missiles are made up of four basic parts. These are the airframe, the power plant, the guidance and control system, and the warhead and fuses.

What is the airframe? This is the part which gives the missile its aerodynamic characteristics. It is the part in which the other components are placed. At present most airframes are made of aluminum alloys, magnesium or high tensile strength steel. Heat resistance is very important for one of the big problems is to find a material able to withstand the terrific heat generated by the friction of air moving over the missile's outer surface.

Now for the power plant. All power plants used in guided missiles are based on some form of the thermal jet engine, usually a solid or liquid propellant rocket, a turbojet, or a ramjet. Each of these power plants has its own advantages and disadvantages. Since rocket engines carry their own oxygen, altitude has little effect on them. So the rocket is the ideal power plant for use beyond the earth's atmosphere. Rockets also offer the possibility of unlimited speed. However, their high rate of fuel consumption and the difficulties involved in steering a rocket, present problems which have yet to be solved.

The ramjet has a lower rate of fuel consumption and therefore a longer range than the rocket. It can be run on gasoline or kerosene instead of the expensive and hard to handle fuels used in rockets. But it can't operate beyond the earth's atmosphere, and it doesn't work at its best until it reaches supersonic speeds. For that reason the ramjet has to be launched from a fast airplane or assisted by a rocket booster when surface launched.

The turbojet requires less fuel than either of the other two. It needs no assistance at its takeoff. Its weight is a serious drawback and it is expensive to make.

How do we guide these missiles? There are several types of systems used. In present systems, a predetermined path is set into the control mechanism of the vehicle. The missile cannot change its mind once it is launched. Magnetic systems use some natural phenomenon of the earth to control the missile's flight path. The German V-1, for example, used a simple magnetic compass to correct the bearing of the missile when it strayed from its preset heading. In stellar navigation systems, devices in the missile are set to sight certain stars. And to calculate the missile's position so that the missile will automatically navigate itself according to preset instructions. In homing systems all the guidance equipment is located in the missile. The missile "homes in" on some illuminating target feature such as heat, light, sound,

or magnetic field. The homers can also direct themselves toward a transmitting radio, radar, or television station. Or they can guide themselves by radar echoes reflected from the target.

Finally, what gives the missile its punch? Eventually a missile might carry a variety of warheads. In external blast, the pressure wave generated by the force of explosion does the damage. In fragmentation, the explosive force ejects metallic fragments at high velocities. In the nuclear, an atomic missile could destroy military targets while at the same time releasing radio-active elements.

A submarine fitted with missiles can move within target range before surfacing, then rise, fire on a distant target and drop beneath the waves again before the enemy knows what hit him. This means that a country must be constantly on the alert for any strange crafts on the water or under it. Naval strategy will have to undergo a complete change in many respects. Shore bombardment was usually considered incidental to a Fleet's main support and protective mission. This will now be done by Surface-to-Surface missiles which extend a ship's range much greater than that of the 16 inch gun. Actually the ship becomes a mobile base for launching missiles.

A word about rockets. A rocket is really a missile without brains. Rockets were used way back on the Napoleonic Wars and in the War of 1812. The British used "rocket ships" in the bombardment of Fort Mchenry. About the year 1850, with the adoption of rifled artillery, rockets went out of style. By 1900 they were considered obsolete almost everywhere. But in World War II, the rocket came back again with a big bang! The lightweight bazooka and its rocket projectile enabled infantrymen to knock out tanks. The U.S. Navy used rocket-launching landing craft in its many invasions. The first air launched U.S. rockets were little more than adaptations of the bazooka. But by the war's end, Navy planes were blasting the enemy with TINY TIM, an 11.75 inch rocket which weighed 1288 pounds and had a 500 pound semi-armorpiercing bomb for a warhead.

What would happen if Earth were suddenly to be invaded by crafts from another planet? Guided missiles and rockets would at once be brought into action. Maybe we will be there to watch this strange sight. If a missile heads our way, we better hope: May the Missile Miss! One real important fact is that at present we do have experts in the handling of missiles and are constantly training more. Think this one over: Why can't we eventually ship freight all over the world by crewless missiles?

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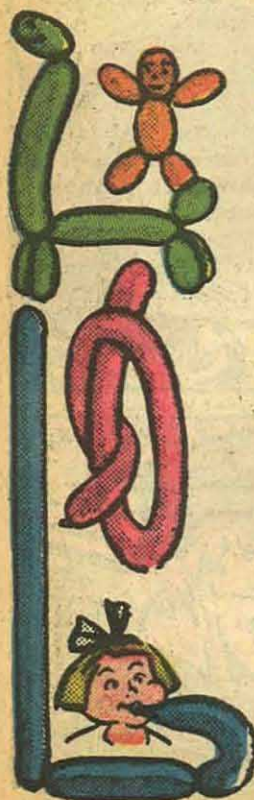
Fantastically flexible Live Latex! Like no other balloons you've ever seen! Twist 'em, turn 'em, bend 'em—they won't break! Cut them in half or any size—twist and they re-seal! The kiddies will have a whale of a time making them into Davy Crockett hats, pretzels, giraffes, lions, fish—a whole zoo! You'll want them for unusual party or Recreation room decorations! Live up a party with a contest for making the funniest shape of all! Complete instructions.

Almost 5 feet long when inflated. Balloons this size usually sell up to 25c each!

Send only \$1 now for 200 in a variety of gay colors! (Plus 25c for Postage and Handling.)

Supply limited at this low price, so order several sets NOW for GUARANTEED PROMPT DELIVERY. MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

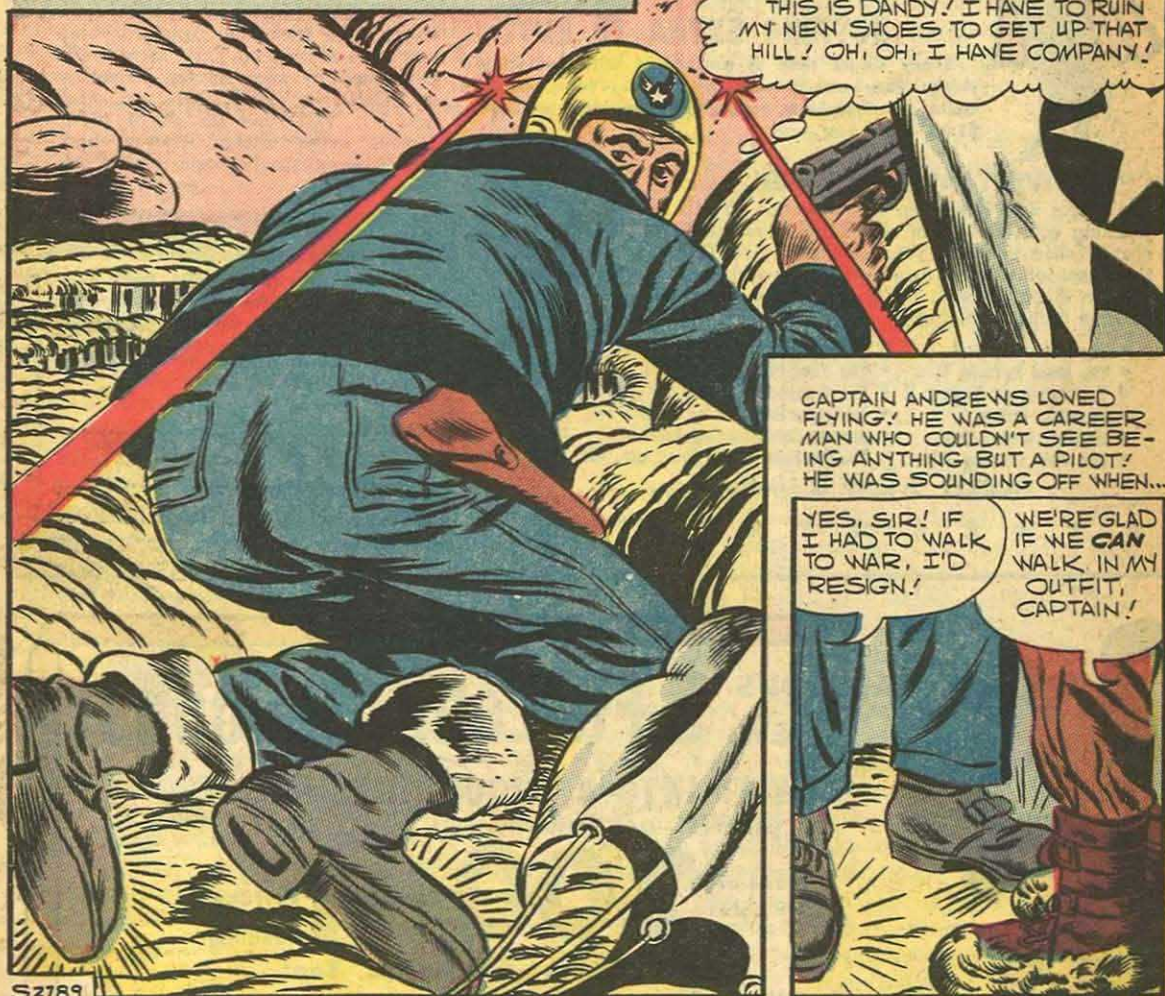
MURRAY HILL HOUSE Dept. 1901
114 E. 32 St. New York 16, N. Y.



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

The PILOT WITH DAINTY FEET

SOME OF THE MEN CALLED HIM TWINKLETOES... BUT CAPTAIN DAN ANDREWS DIDN'T CARE! HE WORE CUSTOM MADE SHOES, HE TOOK CARE OF HIS FEET! HE ALWAYS HAD A SHINE WHEN HE FLEW HIS SLEEK SABREJET OVER THE KOREAN FRONT... UNTIL THE SAD DAY WHEN HE HAD TO WALK HOME!



THIS IS DANDY! I HAVE TO RUIN MY NEW SHOES TO GET UP THAT HILL! OH, OH, I HAVE COMPANY!

CAPTAIN ANDREWS LOVED FLYING! HE WAS A CAREER MAN WHO COULDN'T SEE BEING ANYTHING BUT A PILOT! HE WAS SOUNDING OFF WHEN...

YES, SIR! IF I HAD TO WALK TO WAR, I'D RESIGN!

WE'RE GLAD IF WE CAN WALK IN MY OUTFIT, CAPTAIN!

MY TWO DAY PASS IS UP TOMORROW! I WALK BACK TO THE LINES!

YOU LESSER TYPES DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER! I'LL BUZZ YOU WHEN I GET UP YOUR WAY IN MY SABREJET!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

WAR WAS A GRIM BUSINESS TO CAPTAIN ANDREWS! THEIR JOB WAS AT LEAST AS RISKY AS AN INFANTRYMAN'S... BUT A LOT CLEANER...

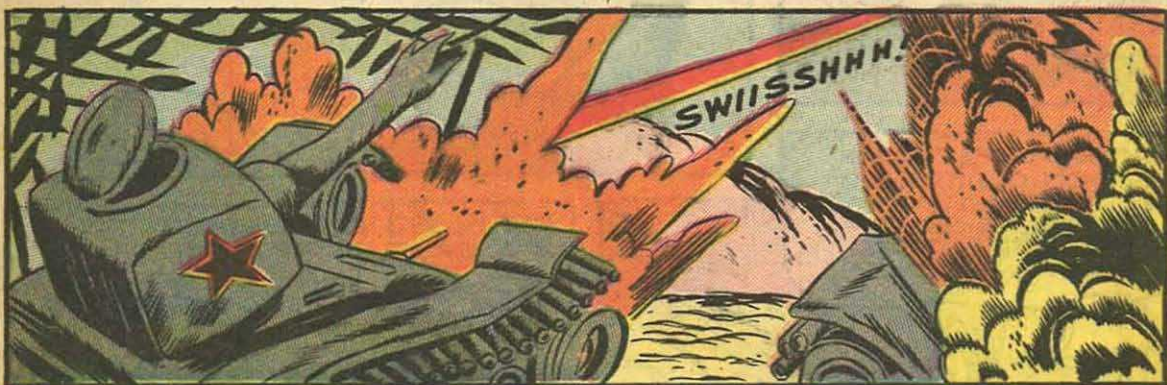
I FELT SORRY FOR THAT GI LIEUTENANT! THOSE SHOES HE WORE-- THEY'D RUIN ANY-- ONE'S FEET!



HERE'S WHERE WE GO TO WORK! THERE'S A RED TANK DEPOT UNDER CAMOUFLAGE DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE! I'VE GOT TO FIND IT!

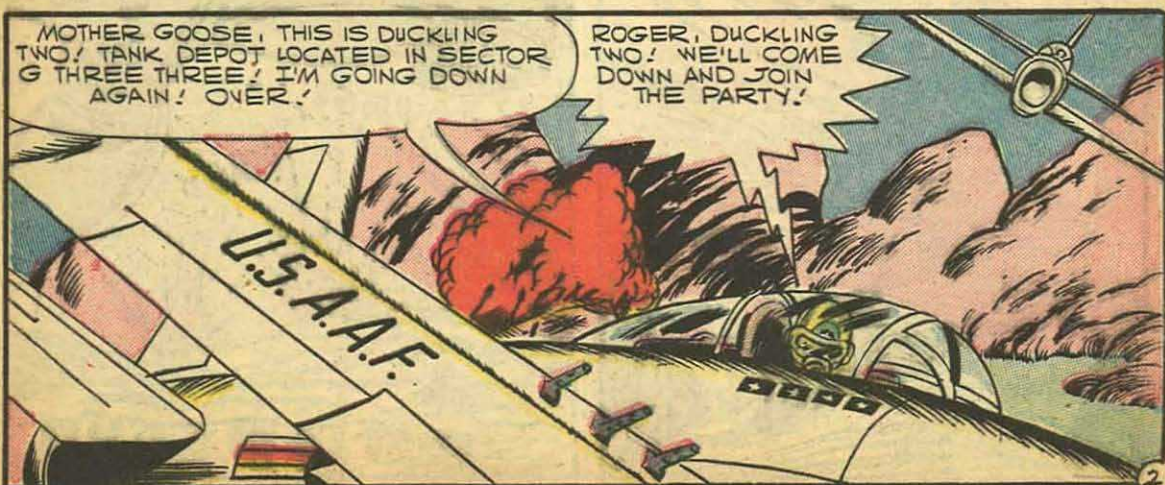


CAN'T TELL MUCH FROM HERE-- BUT THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS DOWN THERE! THAT GREEN IS A DIFFERENT COLOR THAN THE OTHER VALLEYS!

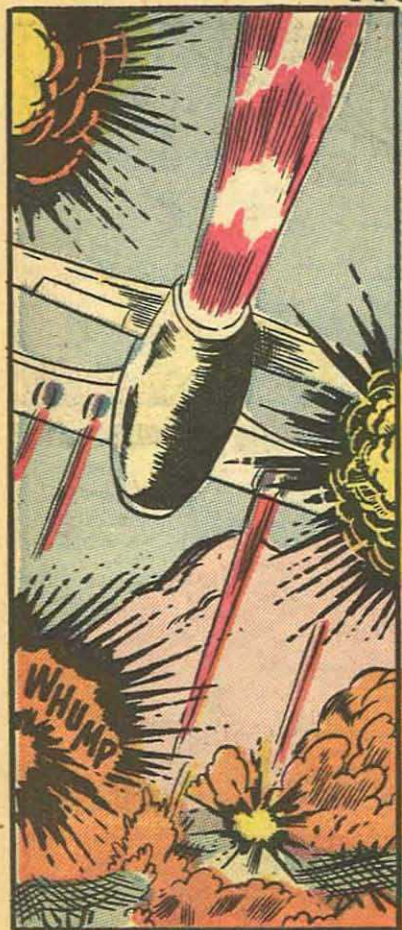


MOTHER GOOSE, THIS IS DUCKLING TWO! TANK DEPOT LOCATED IN SECTOR G THREE THREE! I'M GOING DOWN AGAIN! OVER!

ROGER, DUCKLING TWO! WE'LL COME DOWN AND JOIN THE PARTY!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



OH, OH, THE SOANSO'S
GOT LUCKY! LOOKS
LIKE I'LL HAVE
TO BAIL OUT!



IT WAS THE FIRST COMBAT JUMP CAPTAIN ANDREWS
EVER MADE! HE HEADED SOUTH FOR FRIENDLY
TERRITORY AND JUMPED AT THE LAST MINUTE...



IF I WAS SURE I WAS IN
FRIENDLY COUNTRY, I'D
SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR
SOMEONE TO SHOW UP
WITH A JEEP! THAT
MUD'LL RUIN MY SHOES!



I GUESSED WRONG! I'VE GOT TO
RUN FOR IT--IN THIS MUD!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



JUST WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE CURTAINS, ONE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW'S SCORNOED GROUNDPONDERS APPEARED...



THANKS! WHEN THAT WAS CLOSE! I RUINED MY SHOES IN THIS MUD!



FORGET YOUR SHOES, CAPTAIN! LET'S GO-- WE GOTTA WALK A WHILE!

COME ON, FLY-BOY! WORRY ABOUT YOUR SHOES WHEN WE'RE BACK AT OUR LINES!

THESE SHOES AREN'T MADE FOR WALKING!



THE SAME INFANTRY LIEUTENANT WAS WAITING WHEN THEY ARRIVED! HE HAD TO LAUGH AT ANDREWS AND HIS FEET...

HERE, CAPTAIN--TRY THESE BOONDOCKERS! THEY'RE NOT PRETTY BUT THEY'RE BETTER THAN THOSE DANCING PUMPS!

THANKS! THEY'LL SAVE MY GOOD SHOES!



GRAB A RIFLE, CAPTAIN! WE'VE GOT COMPANY!



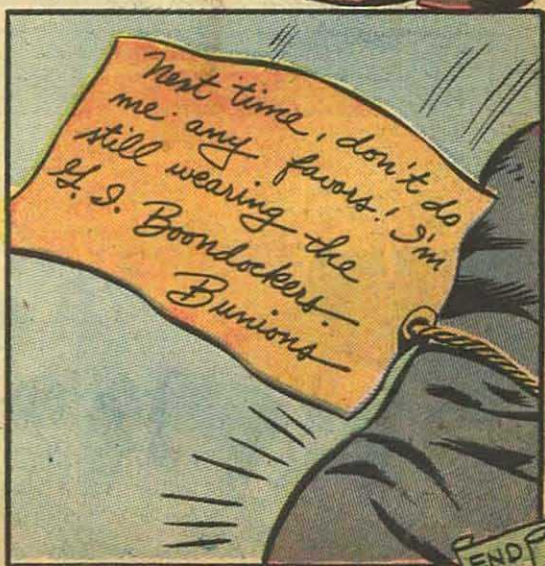
FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE



CAPTAIN ANDREWS SPENT FOUR DAYS WITH THE GROUNDPOUNDERS. THEN, HE THUMBED A RIDE IN A JEEP GOING TO HIS FIELD...



THE GENERAL HAD A MEDAL FOR ANDREWS! THE CAPTAIN SHOWERED AND SHAVED--BUT HIS DAINTY SHOES WOULDN'T FIT ANY MORE...

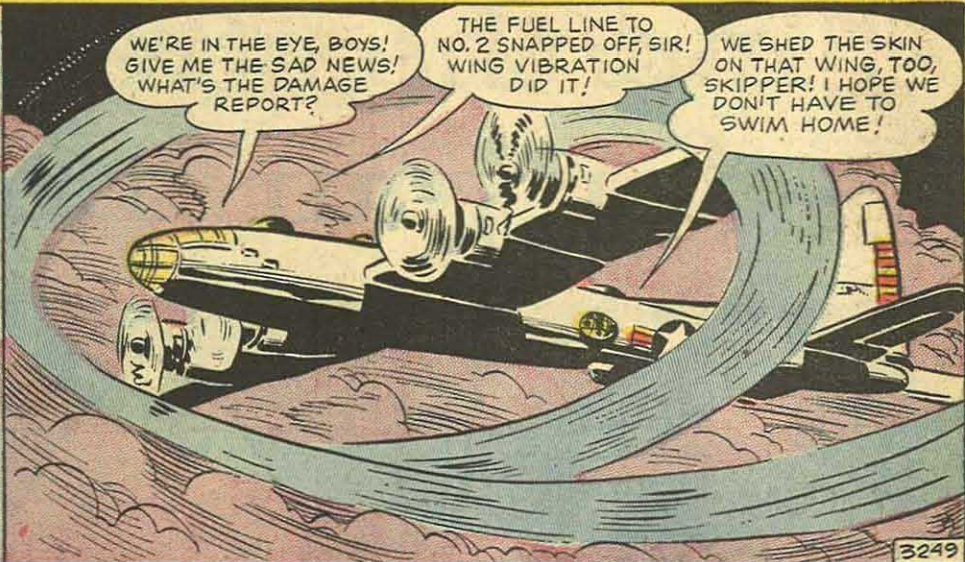


END

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

THE HURRICANE FIGHTERS

ALL-WEATHER SQUADRONS--WHOSE DUTY IT IS TO FIND AND TRACK HURRICANES--SAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE AND UNTOLD LIVES WHEN THEY LOCATE THE STORMS AND COMPUTE THEIR SPEED AND DIRECTION, FLYING THROUGH 150 MILE AN HOUR WINDS INTO THE EYE...



ONCE IN THE CALM CENTER OF THE EYE, THE PLANE CREW COMPUTED THE SPEED THE HURRICANE MOVED AT AND ITS DIRECTION... THIS INFORMATION WAS BROADCAST TO ALL AFFECTED AREAS...



THE MEN IN THAT B-29 FINISHED THEIR PART OF THE JOB, AND...



Find the strength
for your life...



Religion In American Life Program

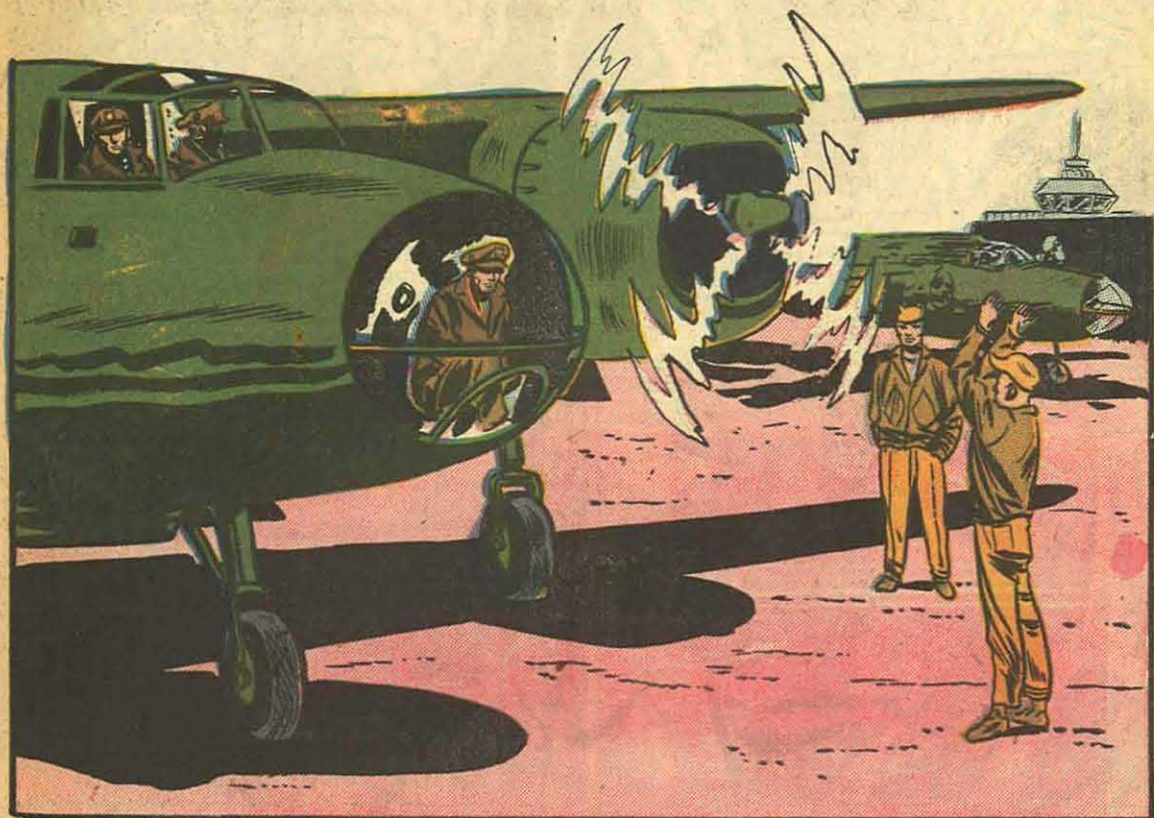
WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS WEEK

This advertisement is being run as a public service
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FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

IT WAS IN THE AIR...THE GERMANS WERE READY TO SURRENDER...THE WAR WAS ABOUT OVER...NO MORE SHOOTING...EXCEPT FOR THE BOYS WHO WERE JUST TAKING OFF ON THE...

LAST Mission



AND THOUGH THE SIGNING OF THE SURRENDER WAS IMMINENT, IT STILL HADN'T COME THROUGH...THE WAR WAS STILL ON...AND COLONEL BAKER DELAYED THE TAKE-OFF OF HIS B-26'S AS LONG AS HE COULD.

BUT NOW THE FLARE WAS BREAKING ACROSS THE MORNING SKY AND THE B26 MARAUDERS WERE MOVING DOWN THE RUNWAY

TOO LATE NOW...
THEY'RE MOVING OUT NOW!

TRY HEADQUARTERS AGAIN! MAYBE WE CAN SCRUB THIS MISSION!

JUST DID, SIR!
NO WORD YET.
...MISSION AS SCHEDULED!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

IT WAS THEN THAT THE NEWSPAPER MAN APPEARED IN THE COLONEL'S OFFICE...

BUT HE HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN A REPORTER JUST THEN...

TELL ME COLONEL, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT THE WAR'S ABOUT OVER? YOU'VE BEEN OVER HERE ALMOST THREE YEARS NOW!

PRETTY GOOD, SON... PRETTY GOOD!

BE SURE AND CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET WORD THAT THE SURRENDER HAS BEEN SIGNED... I WANT THOSE SHIPS RECALLED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



AND IN THE FORMATION, THE LEAD PILOT, CAPTAIN BILL OSBORNE, WAS ALSO SWEATING OUT THE RECALL...

THIS IS PILOT! GUARD THAT FREQUENCY, RADIO OPERATOR... I WANT TO KNOW THE MINUTE THAT SURRENDER IS SIGNED... NO SENSE BOMBING IF WE DON'T HAVE TO!



AND BACK AT THE AIR BASE, WORD STILL HADN'T COME THROUGH... BUT A COLONEL COULD TRY AND THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND, COULDN'T HE?

GET ME WING HEADQUARTERS! I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL!

YES, SIR!



DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO GERMANY, THEY HEADED... TOWARD THE MARSHALLING YARDS THAT YIELDED THE LAST BIT OF RESISTANCE...

LOOKS LIKE THE WAR IS OVER FOR THOSE TANKERS

YEAH, MAYBE THEY HEARD SOMETHING WE DIDN'T!



AND HE ARGUED... CAJOLED... TALKED... BUT IN VAIN!

BUT IT'S DUE TO BE SIGNED ANY MINUTE... NO SENSE IN HAVING THOSE CREWS OUT TODAY!

ORDERS ARE ORDERS, TOM! AND IT STANDS... THERE'LL BE NO RECALL UNTIL IT'S OFFICIAL... THEY KEEP FLYING



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

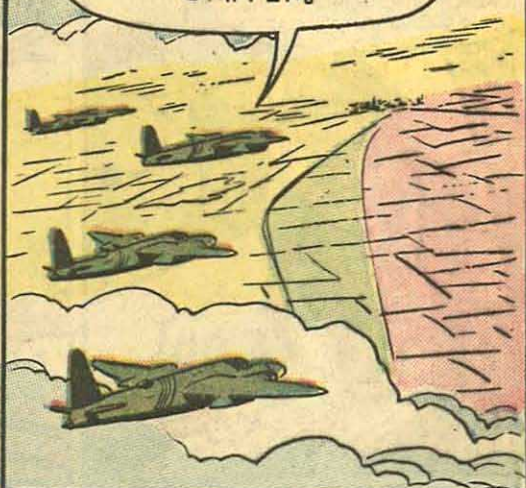
AND AS THE FLIGHT WINGED CLOSER TO ITS TARGET...

AND THEN...

TEN MINUTES TO TARGET AND STILL NO RECALL!



TARGET DEAD AHEAD! I'LL TAKE OVER NOW SKIPPER!



MORE TIME... JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME! NO SENSE IN BOMBING IF WE DON'T HAVE TO!

NOT YET, BOMBARDIER... WE WILL HAVE TO RUN OVER THE AREA!



THEY CHANDELED TO THE LEFT, THEN SWUNG AROUND THE TARGET AREA... CIRCLING... LOOKING FOR MORE TIME... EVERY EAR GLUED TO THE RADIO...



FIFTEEN MINUTES PASSED AND THIS TIME IT WAS THE GENERAL CALLING THE COLONEL... A VERY ANGRY GENERAL...

AND THEN THE TONE ON THE OTHER END SOFTENED...

WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY STRIKE REPORT FROM THE FORMATION! WHY HAVEN'T THEY BOMBED YET? THERE'S STILL A WAR GOING ON!

SORRY TOM... THAT RECALL HASN'T COME THROUGH YET... BUT YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

THANKS GENERAL... FOR EVERYTHING!



YES SIR I'LL CONTACT THEM AT ONCE!



FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

HE HEARD THE ORDERS THEN...
AND NOW THERE WAS NOTHING
HE COULD DO BUT OBEY...

DOWN... DOWN... DOWN THE MARAUDERS CAME
...ROARING IN LOW OVER THE YARDS... UN-
LEASHING THEIR CARGOES OF DESTRUCTION!

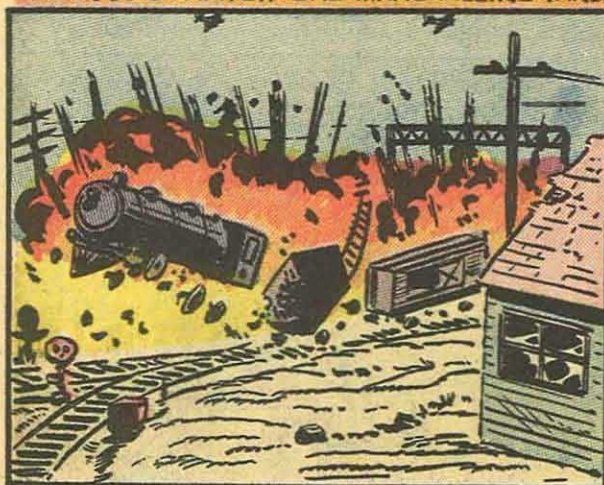


HANG ON EVERYBODY
WE'RE GOING
DOWN!



THE YARDS BUCKLED AND EXPLODED
BENEATH THE FURY OF THE HIGH EXPLOS-
IVES... SCRATCH ONE MARSHALLING YARD!

THEY RAKED THEM OVER AGAIN AND
AGAIN... LET THEM FEEL THE FULL STING
OF THE MARAUDER'S POWER!..



THAT'S ENOUGH... LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE... IN FORMATION... THE
LAST ONE WE'LL EVER HAVE TO FLY!

AND THE ANSWER CAME IN DEFIANCE...
ONE SMALL FLAK GUN IN A TOWER... LIKE
DAVID AT GOLIATH... THE LAST BIT OF
DEFIANCE OF THE FATHERLAND!



FIRE! ACH
TUNG! FIRE

FIGHTIN' AIR FORCE

AND BACK AT OPERATIONS THE PHONE RANG... THE CALL HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR...

HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING... JUST COULDN'T SIT THERE...



IT'S ALL OVER, TOM... THEY JUST SIGNED!

THANK GOD! THANK GOD!



COME ON SON, THE WAR'S OVER... LET'S WATCH THOSE SHIPS COME BACK IN! I WANT TO GREET THEM PERSONALLY!

THEY WATCHED THE BEAUTIFUL SHIPS COME IN OVER THE AIR STRIP... SHIPS THAT HAD UNLEASHED THEIR LAST LOAD OF BOMBS... HAD FLOWN THEIR LAST MISSIONS... BUT IT WAS A WORRIED COLONEL WHO WATCHED THEM SET THEIR WHEELS DOWN



ONE MISSING! MAYBE HE SET DOWN AT ANOTHER BASE

AND AFTER HIS BRIEFING... THE LAST BRIEFING OF THE LAST MISSION... THE COLONEL AND THE NEWSMAN RETURNED TO THE OFFICE...

HE ERASED THE NAME FROM THE LIST... THE LAST NAME HE WOULD EVER ERASE... ONE OF MANY NAMES HE HAD ERASED MANY TIMES BEFORE...



WELL, THAT'S OVER WITH! NOW SIR, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO FINALLY KNOW THAT IT'S ALL OVER?

HOW DOES IT FEEL? THE SAME AS YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT!



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHICH MISSION THEY GET IT ON... THE FIRST OF THE WAR OR THE LAST... NO THINGS GONNA BRING THEM BACK... ANY OF THEM...

... HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL?

End

100 TOY SOLDIERS

MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC,
EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4½"!

\$1.25



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- | | | |
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| 4 Tanks | 8 Machinegunners | 4 Bombers |
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| 4 Battleships | 4 Infantrymen | 8 Jet Planes |
| 4 Cruisers | 8 Officers | 8 Cannon |
| 4 Sailors | 8 Waves | 4 Bazookamen |
| 4 Riflemen | 8 Wacs | 4 Marksmen |

JOSELY CO., Dept. TCH-17

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Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

NO

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Fightin Air Force # 11 (1958)

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